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For Those Who PLAY TO WIN!

Vol. 12/No. 10 • May 14, 1999 • \$2.95



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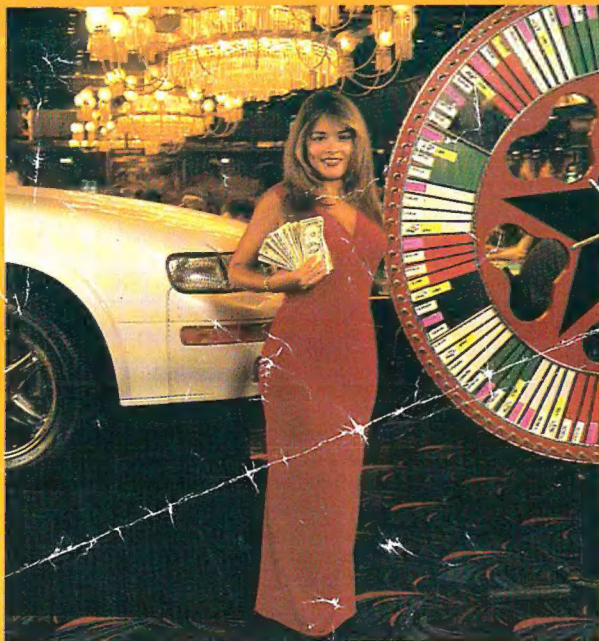
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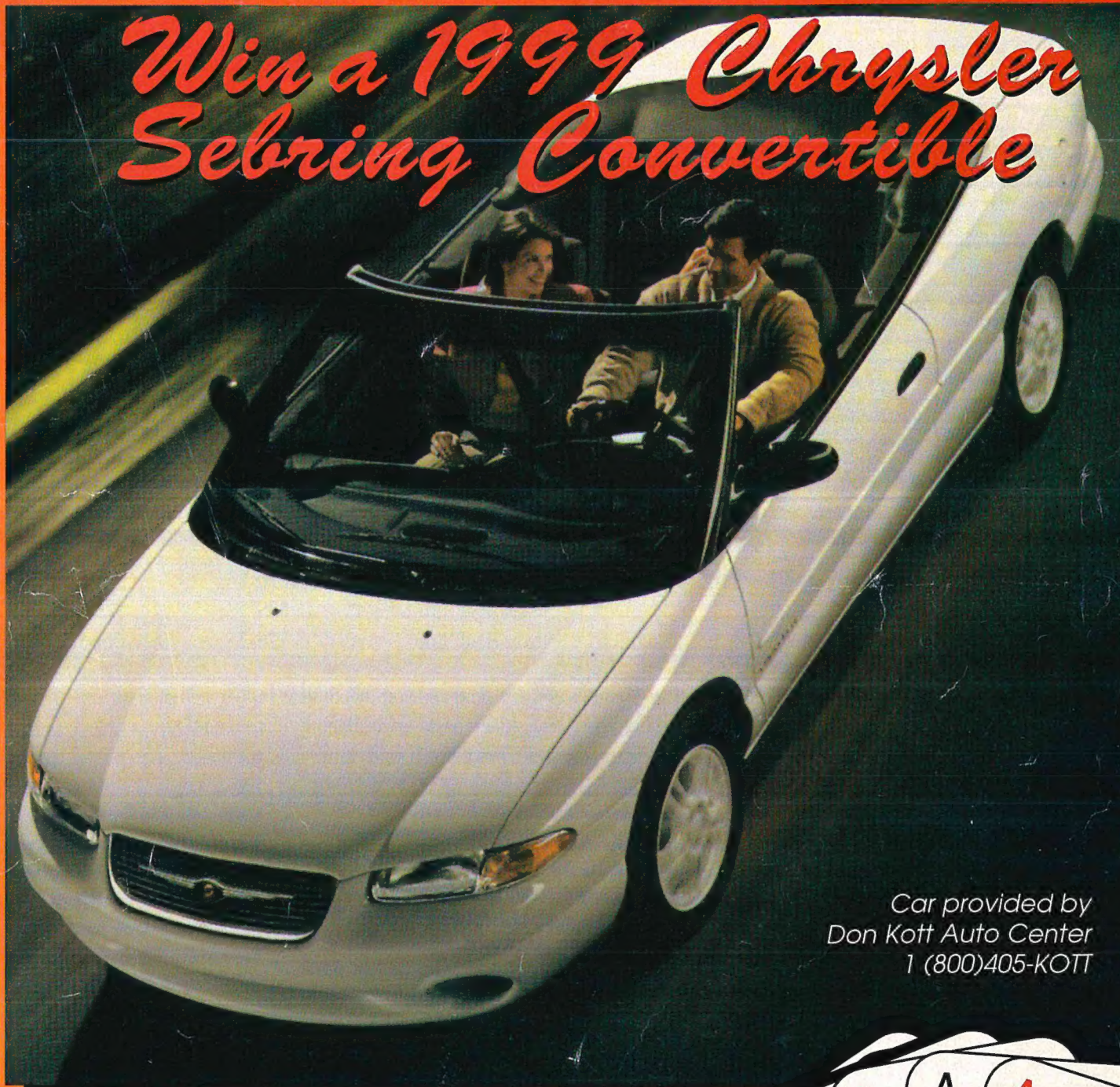
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The Publisher's Pen

Linda Johnson

The 1999 *World Series of Poker* is under way at Binion's Horseshoe in Las Vegas. Congratulations to

Charlie Brahm of Ventnor, New Jersey, who bested a record field of 609 players to claim first place in the tournament's opening event, \$1,500 hold'em.

At this time, only one event has been completed. I watched the final table and was particularly impressed with the good-natured demeanor of the players. I witnessed professionalism at its finest during one hand, when Ken Flaton took a horrendous beat that cost him most of his chips and he refrained from showing any emotion or making any negative comments.

Bob Thompson and the tournament staff are doing a tremendous job of handling the crowds and directing the tournaments. Although the first tournament was delayed because of a computer glitch that resulted in the duplication of 51 seating assignments for the event, it looks as though the rest of the tournaments are going to start precisely on time. "So far, the tournament action has been very, very good, and the live play has been excellent. Every time we break a tournament table, we've been able to start a live game. The gallery area surrounding the final table is conducive to allowing lots of spectators to view the play," stated Tournament Director Bob Thompson.

The *Discovery Channel* is doing a documentary on the *World Series of Poker*. Cameras and filming equipment were on hand for the opening, and interviews are being conducted with many well-known players. We will have details in the future about the air times for this special.

There is a disturbing trend that has been occurring in some tournaments over the last few years. Many good dealers have dropped

out of the tournament circuit because the tips (tokens) have been getting smaller and smaller. The majority of players are fair and do the right thing when it comes to tipping. Unfortunately, there also are large numbers of players who think nothing of winning huge sums of money either from a tournament prize pool or in live games and subsequently "stiffing" the dealers. It's generally the same players who complain about the quality of the dealers. Well, they need to figure out that there is a correlation between tipping and good dealers. As far as I am concerned, tips are a necessary business expense, and need to be figured in as such. If you can't afford your business expenses, maybe you're in the wrong business. It disgusts me when I hear someone say something like, "I'm never tipping another dealer again, because one of them made a mistake that cost me the pot two years ago." Nice excuse, but it doesn't work. Tip the dealers who do a good job, run the game well, and have decent attitudes, or don't complain when the good dealers quit!



With this issue, *Card Player* is pleased to introduce two new writers: Phil Hellmuth and "Oklahoma" Johnny Hale. Phil will be writing a regular column featuring a "Hand of the Week." Johnny will entertain us with stories about players from the past, anecdotes, and personality profiles.



Several hundred cardroom managers from around the world will be at the Mirage in Las Vegas this week for *Card Player's* fourth annual *World Poker Industry Conference*. We welcome them all and look forward to a very productive conference that will benefit the players in the long run.



Bay 101 held its annual *Shooting Star* tournament recently. Owner Marko Trapani does a great job of turning this two-day event into a major poker spectacular. Vince Burgio writes all about the event on page 26. Congratulations to winner John Bonetti who topped the field of 150 players. Results of the tournament appear on page 73.

Now, let's play poker! ♦

Publisher
Linda Johnson

Chairman and President
Barry Shulman

Volume 12/No. 10
May 14, 1999

CARD PLAYER
The Magazine For Those Who PLAY TO WIN!

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Mike

Caro

rhymes with "arrow"

"America's Mad Genius" on Poker

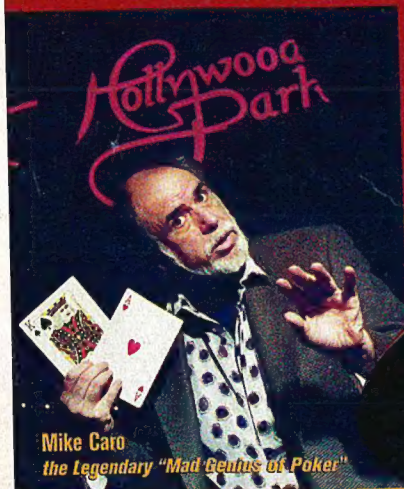
Classroom Lectures: Stop Making Bad Raises

Editor's note: Mike Caro is generally regarded as today's foremost authority on poker strategy, psychology, and statistics. In his books, videos, and seminars, his unique method of communication has earned him the title "Mad Genius of Poker," or "America's Mad Genius." He is founder of Mike Caro University of Poker, Gaming, and Life Strategy.

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There are two equally valid approaches to raising. You can meet every single opportunity with an attitude that silently asks, "Why should I raise?" You then try to see if there are any reasons why a raise — rather than a call or a fold — would be appropriate. Or, you can ask, "Why *shouldn't* I raise?" You then try to see if there are any reasons why a call or a fold — rather than a raise — would be appropriate right now.

One way, you're assuming that you *won't* raise and try to argue yourself into it. The other way, you're assuming that you *will* raise and try to argue yourself out of it. Conceptually, either of these approaches should lead to the same conclusion, provided that all factors are weighed correctly. But, however you go about your decision-making, raising at the wrong times can be very costly. We're about to talk about that.

By exclusive arrangement with *Card Player* magazine, I am rewriting and enhancing the one-page handouts that accompany my Tuesday classroom sessions at Mike Caro University of Poker, Gaming, and Life Strategy.

Today's column is based on Tuesday Session No. 12, which took place Dec. 15, 1998. The topic was ...

"When Not to Raise"

1. Always ask yourself the reason before you take any assertive action in poker. If you're betting, make sure that you know *why*. Just a vague notion is not good enough.

Here's how to contact Mike Caro

Leave voice message .. 562-928-2499
Fax 562-928-2599
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Justify your choices. Once you get into this habit, you're apt to discover that you have been taking actions for the wrong reasons — or for no reasons at all.

You should do the same exercise before you call *and* — especially — before you raise. There are more experienced players than you might expect who are raising for faulty reasons, or without a clue as to the reason. From today on, unless you have a *reason* to raise, don't. That means never. Quite simply, I'm asking you to adopt the approach to raising whereby you first assume that you *won't* raise and then argue yourself into a raise *if you can*.

2. Two reasons to raise. Excluding the psychological aspect of poker, there really are only two basic reasons to raise: (1) to build a bigger pot, and (2) to increase your chance of winning.

Sometimes you need to evaluate both of these factors to decide on a tactic. Building a bigger pot means more money if you win, and is often the best choice for a strong hand, but it sometimes actually *decreases* your chances of winning that pot. This can happen, for instance, if you build a bigger pot by *not*

raising with an exceptionally strong hand, inviting many players in. You are then more likely to lose, because there are more opponents remaining who might get lucky and beat you. But you're hoping that the increased risk will be overwhelmed by increased profit from a bigger pot if you do win. Conversely, if you raise from an early position, you may be making the pot smaller by chasing opponents out, but you will tend to win more often.

In addition to these two key strategic reasons to raise, you might sometimes raise to enhance your image — and profit later. When you make an image raise, you are working toward being the one force at your table to be reckoned with. It is not necessary that the raise will add an expectation of extra profit on that pot itself. The extra profit can come from subsequent pots, because your raise has helped to build a commanding image that lets you manipulate your opponents. So, when you begin with the premise that you will not raise, image can sometimes be a factor in changing your mind. But be careful. Don't let yourself be argued into a raise frivolously. If you

don't really need to enhance your image right now, or if the raise would be too costly for the benefits, just call or even fold.

3. Be careful whom you drive out. Usually, you should *not* raise if you expect to drive out the weak hands and be called by the strong ones. This, unfortunately, is a common result of "thin the field" strategy. Often, you would prefer to play against fewer opponents. Some hands simply make more profit that way. But what if your raise will thin the field in the wrong way? What if the most likely callers are those against whom you least want to play, and the most likely folders are those against whom you most want to play. In that case, a raise can be wrong, even though you did want to thin the field and play against fewer opponents. That's because you *didn't* want to thin the field if it meant playing against *only* opponents with the stronger hands. And that's often the case. That is why — in general — I'm not an advocate of thin-the-field raising for many common situations for which it is advised.

Continued on page 100

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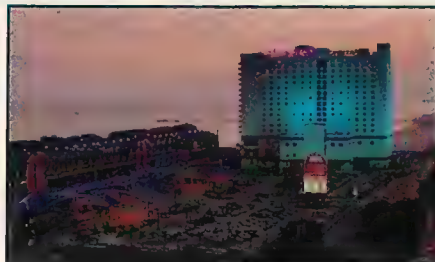
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Roy Cooke

Pumping It Up at the Peppermill

I like nostalgia! I like to go back to the places of my past and revisit the experiences from which I grew into the person I am today. There is something comforting about old haunts and fond memories. After all, our lives are the sum of what we've touched and seen. So, in March, I went back to visit Reno — the Biggest

Little City in the World, home of the world-famous Mustang Ranch, and once the poker capital of the Northwestern United States and Southwestern Canada.

I first went to Reno at the age of 18, not legally old enough to gamble in Nevada, but no one ever asked any questions. I played \$10-\$20 and \$15-\$30

hold'em, which were huge games for me at that time in my life. I struggled initially, but eventually took hold. It was there that I first played with Ray Zee. He was the biggest winner in the games, and had a young blonde girlfriend, with whom I fell in love at first sight, and a lot of dough. He seemed like a good role model. I watched what he did and the moves that he made, and I learned a lot about poker while doing it. These were my formative years of playing poker. I was good enough to survive that level, but wasn't getting rich doing it. But it was an education.

Several times in the past five years, I have gone back to Reno to the Peppermill poker tournaments. They have been great times for me. The Peppermill tournaments don't attract a lot of the big-name players, but who the hell wants to play with them, anyway? And while the action is higher on a daily basis here in Vegas, the games there are always great. The middle-limit games — \$15-\$30 through \$30-\$60 — are full of good action. The casino facility itself is just an outstanding, fun place. The pool and Jacuzzis are heated year-round, there is an exercise room, the food is first-rate (this, from an overweight Vegas buffet eater), and the prices on everything are cheap. The rake is very reasonable. What you spend on expenses, you almost can recoup in a cheaper rake. More importantly, Reno is a more social and sociable environment than most gambling towns. People

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Sunday May 16, 7pm

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I headed up to the Peppermill spring tournament with several friends, looking to get away from Vegas for a few days, play some live games, and have a little fun. On the first day, I started a \$30-\$60 hold'em game in which I did not know most of the players. On the first hand of the game, I picked up the 6♦ 5♦. Generally when I am new to a game, I tighten up. I want to get a feel for where I'm at, what mood the players in the game are in, and who is doing what to whom. When I commit money without a clear understanding of what is going on, the decisions that I make are much tougher, and I am more prone to mistakes. But this situation was different. Everyone had just started the game, and people generally play much tighter when they first sit down. As noted above, this tends to be correct, as you spend the first hour of a session sizing up the situation and gathering the information that will help you make plays later in the session. Since I suspected that everyone would be playing tighter than normal, I chose to raise with the hand. I thought that with the game being new, the value of aggressiveness would be high, and even if it did not work, the hand had the value to create future impressions on my opponents — that is, to confuse them and tilt them, and cause them to make errors in the future.

The play didn't work. Three players called behind me and both blinds called. (This established to my delight the quality of

the game I was in.) The flop came K-Q-3 with one diamond. With five callers, I was not about to try to ram that flop through them all. It was checked to me and I checked. My opponents behind me unenthusiastically checked all the way around.

The turn card was the 4♦, creating an open-ender and a flush draw for me. The player in the big blind led into me. He was one of the few players in the game with whom I had played before. I knew that he liked to bluff a lot and never was too particular about the situation. He is one of those guys for whom betting is just a way of life. When the flop is checked around and he's first to act on the turn, he's firing — an automatic bettor. Often in this texture of situation, I would just call in an effort to get more callers behind me and to get a better price on my draw, but the bettor was likely to have nothing, and from playing with him in the past, I knew that he detested giving me action and liked to avoid me. I raised, hoping that I could muscle through the pot from here. My raise folded the rest of the field and left me heads up with the big blind, who gave a reluctant call. The river brought the 7♠, giving me the nuts. My opponent check-called me down and had quite an emotional reaction when he realized what had happened. Until he ran out of chips, he charged at me the rest of the evening.

The hand speaks to two important concepts. One is the concept of semibluffing, of betting with a hand that has more cards to come and potential to improve to the best hand, yet making the play hoping to win the pot by having your opponent fold. The fact that you can improve your hand to the best hand greatly increases the price that the pot offers you on the play. Sometimes you win by following through on the bluff, and sometimes you win by making your hand. And, of course, sometimes you lose the pot. But the play has a lot of value. The greater the chances that your hand will improve to a winner, and the greater the chances that your opponent will fold, combined with the variable of pot size, the greater the strength of the play.

The other concept is to make emotionally unbalanced players get off their game. Often, this can be as easy as putting a beat on them. Poker is a game of edge, and the worse that your opponents play relative to the level of your game, the more money you will make. Setting up your opponents to make mistakes through either deception or psychology is an area in which even many seasoned professionals fail to relate.

My Peppermill experience got only better from there. I booked a nice win, visited my poker roots, and hung with my friends. The Peppermill's having another tournament Oct. 22-29. My buddy John's flying in from Florida for the tourney, so the games are sure to be live. They always build games around him. I'll see ya there!♦

Editor's note: Roy Cooke played poker professionally for 16 years. He currently owns and operates a real estate business in Las Vegas. Please see his ad on page 121.



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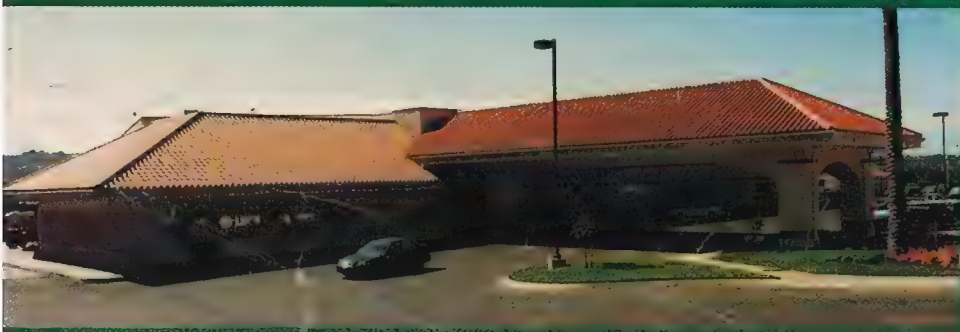
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Tom McEvoy's *Tournament Talk*



A Tribute to Benny Binion From T.J. Cloutier

With the World Series of Poker in action, it seems appropriate that I hand over the podium for this Tournament Talk to T.J. Cloutier, 1998 Player of the Year and the co-author of two of our poker books. One of the world's most famous former road gamblers, T.J. pays respect to the founder of the WSOP by writing this tribute to Binion.

I'll never forget Benny Binion's birthday party not long before he died. It was held at Cowboy's in Fort Worth, a great big Western place with food and drink. It even has a little rodeo arena and a big dance hall where all the best country and western bands play. People came from all over the world to pay tribute to Benny. He hadn't been able to go back to Texas for all those years because he had outstanding charges against him or something like that, but he finally got them quashed. Everybody who's anybody showed up — Bobby Baldwin, Doyle Brunson, Kenny "Top Hat" Smith ... they all were there. Cowboy's is enormous, and it was packed for this tribute to Benny. His family threw the party, and maybe Doyle had something to do with it, too, because they were close friends. Benny's former bodyguard R.D. Matthews — everybody called him "Patch" — probably was in on the party also.

Benny was all decked out for his birthday bash. He always wore Western suits and a beige 20-X Stetson, the best you can buy. He was the type of guy, if you caught him on a good day — let's say that you went broke and he knew you, and he knew that you gambled in his joint — you could go to him and get a couple of thousand dollars without putting up any security. He'd just flip it to you and say, "Pay it when you can,

son." Jack Binion was the same way.

It's interesting how we're all connected a little bit. My friend Lyle Berman was playing in a tournament at the Horseshoe and fell over sick in his chair. I took Lyle to the hospital and while we were there, I heard that Benny was in the hospital, too, so I went up to see him. I've always been thankful that I was able to visit him that night, the night before he died. One of his nephews was sitting beside his bed, and although Benny couldn't recognize me, at least I could say goodbye to him.

Benny left a legacy to the world of poker. Essentially, what he did by starting the *World Series* was move poker from having a bad taste in the mouths of most normal citizens who aren't poker players to making it "legitimate" by putting it into casinos. Amarillo Slim had a lot to do with that, too. With all of his flamboyance and the colorful way he talks on television, Slim has done a lot for poker. But it was the

World Series of Poker that started it all, and we owe a big debt of gratitude to Benny for that.

Today I'm concerned about maintaining the clean reputation of poker that Benny got started. In the old days in Texas, if players had done some of the things that players are doing these days in poker tournaments, they might've been killed or at least beaten half to death. We wouldn't stand for that kind of behavior back then. What poker players can do now to improve the image of poker is stop acting like idiots, and quit throwing cards and stomping around the poker table when they take a beat. If they don't clean up their act, poker will end up right back where it started, in the backroom, because people aren't going to continue putting up with that kind of behavior in public. Benny helped bring it out of the backrooms, and if we don't guard that legacy, poker is going to go right back to where it started.

In the old days, if somebody asked you what you did for a profession, and you were a poker player, you told them that you were in investments, right? Nowadays, if they ask you what you do for a living, you can just say, "I play poker." That's a big difference.

And we owe it all to Benny. How do you replace a guy like that? You don't. ♦

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*Editor's note: T.J. Cloutier and Tom McEvoy are the co-authors of *Championship Omaha* and *Championship No-Limit and Pot-Limit Hold'em*, which are available through Card Player. You may reach them via E-mail at pokerplus@power.net, or through Card Player.*

Inside Professional Poker



A Poker Legend

Who are the four most famous poker players in history? My list would comprise four "poker legends" who are former world champions and are members of the Poker Hall of Fame. They are Johnny Moss, Puggy Pearson, Doyle Brunson, and T.A. Preston Jr. T.A. Preston Jr.? That's right. T.A. Preston Jr., otherwise known as "Amarillo Slim."



Amarillo Slim Preston

Amarillo Slim has been a gambler all of his life, and his talents extend well beyond the poker table. He is one of only two poker players to have a song written about him (Puggy Pearson is the other). As his song says, "From pool, ping-pong, to shootin' baskets in the gym, don't mess around with Amarillo Slim."

Amarillo Slim is the youngest person to

ever play in the world pool championship (at age 15). By 17, he was putting on pool exhibitions all over the world. In 1976, Slim made a bet (\$31,000) that he could raft down the "River of No Return" in Northern Idaho. This bet made headlines in newspapers around the world for seven days. (His wet suit was designed by Jacques Cousteau, and Lloyds of London would not insure him.) The man is incredible.

Although Slim doesn't play many poker tournaments, his batting average is amazing for the number of events that he enters.

The man is a winner. He has made four final tables at the *World Series of Poker*, and has won all four times! (The "four bracelet club" at Binion's consists of a very elite group of players.)

Slim parlayed his 1972 world championship into becoming poker's greatest ambassador. For years, he put on the second-largest poker tournament in the world, *Amarillo Slim's Super Bowl of Poker*. He also has hosted tournaments in Australia, the Isle of Man, Morocco, and Sun City, South Africa.

Slim never played in his own tournaments, but in Sun City, several players coaxed him to play in the championship event. He won it. The next day, the headlines in the newspaper read, "Very Seldom Do the Lambs Slaughter the Butcher!"

Slim's greatest talent, however, is his gift of gab. His quick wit, sense of humor, and storytelling ability are second to none. He has been on the *Tonight Show* six times.

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Amazingly, each of these appearances was with a different host (Johnny Carson, Flip Wilson, Don Rickles, Gabe Kaplan, Joey Bishop, and Joan Rivers). He also has appeared (as himself) in several movies.

I cherish the memories that I have with Amarillo Slim. I won my first poker tournament prize money (1981) at *Amarillo Slim's Super Bowl of Poker*. (And making the money at Slim's events was not easy, because for years, he paid only three places — 60 percent, 30 percent, and 10 percent.) I was with Slim and several other "famous" poker players (including Doyle Brunson, Puggy Pearson, Chip Reese, Bob Stupak, and Telly Savalas, to name a few) and their wives and girlfriends on the greatest vacation of my life. It was a two-week trip to England (put together by Eric Drache) that included cruising for a week from New York to London on the QE II, spending a week in London, and flying back on the Concorde.

The highlight of this trip was the day that 20 of us went to Wimbledon. Slim was in great form that day, entertaining (as usual) all of us from the front of the bus. While waiting for the last person to arrive, Mickey Appleman (whose hairdo resembles that of Harpo Marx), Slim quipped, "He must be blow-drying his hair." When we started to leave, the bus driver made a U-turn in the middle of the street, bringing heavy traffic to a screeching halt honking their horns and putting all of us in shock. Without missing a beat, Slim hollered, "Partner, if you ever want to quit driving a bus, just let me know. I'd love to stake you as a poker player, because you sure as hell aren't afraid to move in on 'em." That line is a "Slim Classic."

We arrived at Wimbledon and Slim (in his Stetson hat and cowboy boots) was the first one off the bus. A group of reporters spotted him and one of them exclaimed, "Look, it's Amarillo Slim." They all ran over to him and Slim held court with them for 20 minutes. This moment verified to me that without question, Amarillo Slim is the most recognized poker player in the world. He truly is a "poker legend."

Take care. ♦

Mike Sexton can be reached by phone: (702) 434-5247; fax: (702) 433-4166; or E-mail: SextonTOC@aol.com.



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Barry's BULLETIN

Barry Shulman



Too Much Information

A while ago, I wrote a basic one-page article about how to beat most Omaha games. The response was overwhelming. Several people whom I had never seen stopped me to say thank you, and another group whom I did not know sent E-mails. The E-mails tended to quantify recent successful results.

Interestingly enough, several high-limit players, mostly pros, all of whom are friends or at least acquaintances, stopped me and chastised me for giving out too much information. I chuckled inwardly and knew that I must have divulged some of the "secrets."

Upon reflection, it occurred to me that divulging too much information is hogwash. Further reflection indicated to me how easy it is to improve one's poker game. It just does not happen very often. That's exactly what makes it so easy.

For starters, most of the "secrets" to basic poker are not secrets at all. They are

basic axioms that the winners tend to follow. So, why were several pros upset? Well, they erroneously concluded that other people don't play properly because they don't have or can't get the information. Wrong.

Most players, even those who play every day, do not work on their game and play just as badly now as they did years ago. They think that they get a disproportionate number of bad beats, and that the other guy is luckier. Subconsciously, many of these players know that is not the case. Most do not accurately keep track of their results, because they like to think that they lose even less than they do. These people are called losers. Does this describe anybody you know?

Then there are those players who have considerable knowledge, certainly knowledge of most of what I wrote, who are just too impatient to play their best game all of the time. Does that describe anybody you know?

It is the *Card Player* policy to disseminate as much good information as possible. However, not everybody wants to study and improve his game. That's just fine with the rest of us. That is common, and that's fine. How many of us play golf, even regularly, and still shoot in the 90s? Linda Johnson and I recently played a game of pool that lasted so long that I never thought it would end. We both stink at pool and we both had a good time. Any decent player would have annihilated each of us, but there is no way that either of us would have lost any money, let alone any serious money. Therein lies the difference between poker and everything else.

There are a few huge differences that argue for extreme care when picking your poker game. Poker is always played for money. The champion poker players love to play with poor amateurs, and they don't ever have to give any strokes. True, in golf the pro will beat the 18-handicap player each and every day. Because of the short-term luck factor, the same is not true in poker. But depending on the difference in the game and skill factor, the poker pro will come out with all of the money after enough hours.

Therefore, the options for the recreational poker player are to accept that you will lose in the long run and pick a game in which your enjoyment level exceeds your expected loss, pick a game in which your skill level exceeds the others, or improve your game. Each option is reasonable, and each option works. ♦

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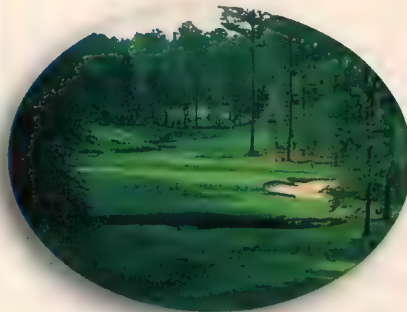
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Lou Krieger ON STRATEGY

Starting Standards — the Gospel for Beginners, a Guide for Skilled Players, and a Point of Departure for Experts

One of the more enduring discussions among hold'em players at all levels — but particularly among beginning players — deals with starting standards. What kind of starting hands should be played is always a hot topic on the Internet newsgroup Rec.Gambling.Poker, as well as in card casino conversations at and away from the table.

Historically, a lot of thinking has been in-

vested in this topic: After all, isn't each and every one of us looking for those hands that are guaranteed to be profitable in the long run, and aren't we equally interested in avoiding starting hands that are long-term losers?

To the best of my knowledge, noted poker authority David Sklansky was the first to publish starting standards for hold'em hands, and he did it nearly 20 years ago. Other

poker writers have promulgated starting standards as well. I took a shot at it in my first book, *Hold'em Excellence: From Beginner to Winner*, and again in my second book, *More Hold'em Excellence: A Winner for Life*. Mine weren't identical to Sklansky's, but they weren't that different, either. In fact, the primary difference was in presentation, not content — mine were depicted graphically, whereas Sklansky's depiction was in a tabular, listlike format. Richard Allen's wonderful *Foolproof Workbook* synthesizes the thinking of many poker authors, and suggests standards that also are quite similar.

You could argue until the proverbial cows come home about which sets of starting standards are better, but it's not really worthwhile. Most are similar, and in any event, there are no contrarian theorists out there arguing that you ought to play 9-2 offsuit under the gun. What's important is the simple fact that you ought to be following some set of standards. After all, everyone's standards come with the caveat that they should be modified based on position and the texture of the game — and it's that elusive game texture that can neither be measured nor subsumed within a formula. And therein lies the rub. While you have to make adjustments to starting standards because of game texture, you're seldom certain whether your adjustments are correct. That's why a computer never will be able to play poker perfectly, and that's why — as long as your opponents are human — you'll seldom be certain that your adjustments are

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That, however, doesn't negate the need for standards — and neither does the fact that you've had your last three pairs of aces and kings cracked by guys who stuck around to catch two runners and wound up beating you. Don't blame your starting standards for this; they're not at fault. Getting drawn out on is not about starting standards, it's about predicting the future — and I've precious little wisdom to offer you on that topic.

But I can offer you some words of wisdom about guidelines for playable hands: Starting standards should be gospel for beginners, a guide for skilled players, and a point of departure for experts.

Simple? Of course it is. Still, some amplification is required. If you are a beginner, you shouldn't think about departing from whatever starting standards you adopt. Here's why. You never will deviate from starting standards because they are wrong. They're not. Once you know enough about the game to recognize appropriate opportunities, you can deviate because your adjustment represents a more profitable play. It doesn't obviate the book play; it simply means that for a specific situation, you've found an even more profitable alternative.

If you're a beginner or purely recreational player, you probably won't recognize those opportunities, and if you deviate from the book play, you'll be wrong more often than not. For a beginner, playing correctly will result in some very repetitive play on your part, precisely because I'm suggesting that you follow these standards like a robot. In the long run, however, you'll be far better off than you'd be by looking for reasons to deviate from the book move. If you are a beginning or recreational player, be boring, be predictable, build a foundation based on sound play, and win money.

Once you have your chops down and know them cold, feel free to experiment — but please heed this word of caution: Experiment a whole lot less than you'd like to. Remember, most of the time, the book move is the best move. That's why it's the book move.

Even chess masters play standard openings most of the time. They do it because it works. If you're a skilled player, you can use standard play as a guide rather than treating it as the gospel. Nevertheless, most of the time, you'll still be playing book hands — but you'll be deviating just enough to put some variety into your game and some doubt into the minds of your opponents. Of course, this presupposes that your opponent is the type who pays attention to the kind of hands you're playing. If he's not, don't waste your time trying to deceive him. Just play straight ahead poker. You'll probably have to show down the best hand to get the money against this kind of adversary, but that has a bright side, too. You won't have to waste any time or lose any money trying to be clever. Just play correctly and you are guaranteed to win as long as you catch your share of good cards.

Even when you reach the exalted *expert player* level, you'll still play the right cards most of the time. The very fact that experts know all of the book moves cold allows them to depart from starting standards once in a while, depending on the game, the opponent, and the current situation. Believe me, when you see an expert player win a big pot with what appears for all the world to be a terrible starting hand ("My God, how could he have called from fourth position with one player already in and only a 7♠ 6♣ in his hand?"), unless you have reason to believe otherwise, just assume that he had a reason for making that play. If he makes this play routinely, or makes it when he shouldn't, he is not really much of an expert at all.

If you are playing pot-limit or no-limit poker, deviating correctly from book starting standards becomes even more important. The reason is simple: You don't need to win all that many hands to win a goodly amount of money. But to win a bundle, you usually have to trap one of your opponents for some big bets. In no-limit and pot-limit games — where your opponents are likely to be even more wary than they are in limit games — you often need to be deceptive to accomplish this. And sometimes the easiest way to practice deception is to allow your opponents to fool themselves. How does one accomplish this? By playing a strange hand every now and then, and by playing it in a manner that causes your opponent to become completely convinced that you are holding something that you're not.

But without knowing starting standards cold, you'll never be able to put together a cogent plan. And whenever you make a move at the poker table without much of a plan, you usually don't have much of a prayer, either. ♦

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For What It's Worth ...



VINCE BURGIO

Bay 101

Slowly, ever so slowly, the poker world is beginning to have more than one event a year. When I say event, I don't mean that excluding the *World Series of Poker*, there are not some very good tournaments. What I mean is that if tournament poker is ever to make the big jump with corporate sponsorship and so on, I think it must be marketed on the basis of personalities, showmanship, and entertainment. I think the big mistake that we all have made over the years was to think that poker could be marketed strictly on a purist basis.

I think Mike Sexton's upcoming *Tournament of Champions* is going to fit into that "event" category. Mike has told me about some of the things that he has planned, and everyone is going to be pleasantly surprised. Poker still is going to be the name of the game, but you're going to see poker in a little different light.

In the same vein, I want to talk about a tournament that I just attended at Bay 101 in San Jose, California, that has become an event. It was the brainchild of owner Marko Trapani. A couple of years ago, Marko came up with an idea to introduce his Bay-area players to the top poker players in the world. He guessed correctly that if these top players were given an appearance fee, they would be happy to attend his tournament. One of the things that he requested of these top players — or "stars," as they were called — was that they be willing to meet Bay 101 customers, sign autographs, and so on. He knew that Bay 101 players would enjoy meeting and playing against the world's best.

The name of the event was the *Shooting Star Tournament*, and it consisted of a \$1,000 buy-in no-limit event and a \$500 buy-in limit hold'em contest.

Marko's idea included placing one star at each of the 15 tables and placing a \$1,000 bounty on each one's head. This year, he added a new wrinkle. Anyone who knocked one of the stars out of the tournament got a T-shirt with the star's picture on it, along with the statement, "I Busted Out Huck Seed" ... or Men the Master ... or whomever the star happened to be.

As the tournament was about to start, Chuck Thompson introduced all of the stars by providing a brief bio on each. He also had some funny and entertaining ad libs. (Chuck wants to grow up to be Jack McClelland.)

Erik Seidel was the first star to be knocked out. He had to be one of the favorites to win the tournament, but he was unfortunate enough to pick up two aces against two kings!

One of the next few to be knocked out was Phil Hellmuth, who

also had to be one of the favorites.

Men the Master provided the players and the gallery, which was quite large by tournament standards, a lot of laughs when he offered to pay \$300 each to the people who had knocked the stars out for the T-shirts they had won. Men has a unique idea of what things are worth in the United States. I asked him why he was willing to pay so much for the T-shirts, and he explained that he could sell them in Vietnam for double what he had paid.

At about 10 p.m., the tournament had been reduced to the final table, so play was suspended until the next day.

The following day, the crowd assembled for final-table play. Other than the *World Series of Poker*, it was the largest crowd I've seen watching a final table. Final-table play also was shown on TV monitors throughout the cardroom so that seated players could view the action.



"Stars" of the recent *Shooting Star Tournament* at Bay 101 included (left to right, front row) Mike Sexton, Barbara Enright, John Bonetti, Marsha Waggoner, Bay 101 owner Marko Trapani, Vince Burgio, Danny Newman, Men Nguyen, Scotty Nguyen, (left to right, back row) Huck Seed, Phil Hellmuth, Erik Seidel, Artie Cobb, T.J. Cloutier, Ken Flaton, and Tom McEvoy.

When the seventh-place finisher (me) was knocked out, I left and drove back to Los Angeles. I found out the next day that a very healthy-looking John Bonetti had won the tournament.

Congratulations to John — and to the entire Bay 101 staff, thanks for a job well done.

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Photo Exhibit of Famous Poker Players and Gamblers Immortalizes Las Vegas Shakers and Movers

BY MARK HOUSTON

In an age when casinos are imploded by the day and myths are exploded by the dozen, *Card Player* photographer Larry Grossman is preserving the history of the Las Vegas gambling culture via photography. Known to many influential insiders in the gaming culture as a genuine "good guy," Grossman has been photographing famous gamblers for more than a decade, and will be snapping photos again this year at the *World Series of Poker*. Currently, many of his candid portraits of famous poker players, sports figures, blackjack aficionados, celebrities, and gaming authors, along with other historic photos, are on exhibit at the Gamblers Book Shop in Las Vegas in a "gallery of gamblers" that is both unique and fascinating.

"People are the lifeblood of the gaming industry; gamblers are its soul," Grossman said. "I truly respect the people I photograph." That respect shows particularly well in one of his noteworthy photos of poker players, a group portrait of 10 *World Series of Poker* champions that took him hours of cajoling and coordination to snap. In that photo are two soldiers since fallen on the battlefields of tournament action, Johnny Moss and Stu Ungar.

Other poker greats in the exhibit include T.J. Cloutier, Amarillo Slim Preston, Doyle "Texas Dolly" Brunson, Berry Johnston, Linda Johnson, Barbara Enright, Johnny Moss, Scotty Nguyen, Huck Seed, Mansour Matloubi, Artie Cobb, "Oklahoma

Johnny" Hale, Johnny Chan, and Betty Carey (who broke the casino pit barrier for women players). The dramatic final hand of the '82 *Series* between Jack Straus and Dewey Tomko is pictured, showing Straus in the grand finale of his comeback victory after being down to his last \$500 chip. And Bill Boyd — probably the world's greatest five-card stud player, and a man who helped train more than a dozen major cardroom managers — is memorialized in a mid-'80s photo.

Visitors to the free photographic exhibit receive a booklet with thumbnail bios of each famous gambler and celebrity pictured. "Gamblers used to be some families' dirty little secret, but now there is a much greater interest in people of the past who made gambling what it is today," said Peter Ruchman, general manager of Gamblers Book Shop. "But people don't know what they looked like. Here, you will get to see photos of many of those mythical figures." For example, three of the "Big Four of Blackjack" — Dr. Ed Thorp, Stanford Wong, and Peter Griffin — are pictured together at a blackjack table in 1981 at the *Fifth National Conference on Gambling and Risk Taking* in Lake Tahoe. From the booklet, you learn that Caesars Tahoe management refused to allow them, along with Ken Uston, to be photographed playing at the same table, so they went next door for this publicity shot. Uston had become involved playing Pac Man and didn't get there for the photo shoot.

Celebrities who have played key roles in Las Vegas history also are pictured in the exhibit. Frank Sinatra and "Big Julie" Weintraub, the famous junketeer who brought some of the biggest high rollers to Las Vegas for more than 20 years, are pictured together in the early '70s. Another vintage photo shows the reclusive Howard Hughes in 1967, when he per-

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One of Larry Grossman's photos on exhibit at the Gamblers Book Shop in Las Vegas features these 10 World Series of Poker Champions. Seated (left to right) are Johnny Moss and Jim Bechtel. Standing (left to right) are Tom McEvoy, Johnny Chan, Stu Ungar, Russ Hamilton, Puggy Pearson, Berry Johnston, Phil Hellmuth, and Jack Keller.

sonally applied for licensing in one of the many hotels he bought in Las Vegas.

Sports betting legend Sonny Reizner is pictured at the Castaways sportsbook in the '80s, "where 10,000 wise guys, characters, system players, and sports service and sportsbook people saw a million different numbers posted." Mort Olshan, founder of the prestigious *Gold Sheet*, and Lem Banker, a Las Vegas sports bettor who regularly appears on TV during football season with his picks, also are included in the exhibit, among other famous sports figures.

John and Edna Luckman, founders of the Gamblers Book Shop, are pictured at the American Bookseller's Association national trade show in 1973, long before gaming books became an important market. The couple began writing books under the name "Walter I. Nolan," and later started publishing works by other authors in 1965, "many of whom have become the industry's foremost experts." Some of the authors whom Luckman encouraged include David Sklansky, Huey Mahl, James Quinn, and Arne Lang.

Photographic credit also is given to four *Card Player* columnists: Tom McEvoy, "whose book on tournament play revolutionized how players maneuvered through the first to final table in virtually every variation of poker;" Mike Caro, "who used to be called 'Crazy Mike,' but that was before everyone figured out that the craziness was the strategy of a man bringing science to areas of the game previously categorized as gut instinct; Susie Isaacs, "who missed the final table of the championship event in 1998 by just one spot;" and Dana Smith, "owner of the influential *Poker Plus* and *Cardsmith Publishing*, who has been a vital force in encouraging noted players to write poker books."

In its review of the photographic exhibit, the *Las Vegas Sun* reported, "While much of old Las Vegas is slowly being destroyed to pave the way for new megaresorts, at least one important part of its history is being preserved ... photos of the people who made Las Vegas what it is today." The free exhibit is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the Gamblers Book Shop, 630 S. 11th Street. ♦

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Susie Isaacs



The Cowboy Poker Dealer

I was working on a story about poker dealers' most memorable experiences, and when I asked Bellagio poker dealer Gary McCaskill about his, he responded, "Happy, sad, funny, strange, or unbelievable?"

"All of the above," I requested. When he started talking, his great poker stories came in rapid-fire order. I knew that I had an entire "Chip Chatter" column. After 33 years in the box, McCaskill had more than a few memorable experiences.

Born and raised in Austin, Texas,

McCaskill is a cowboy through and through. When he first went to work at The Mirage, there was a rule in the handbook that stated that dealers could not wear any type of boots. That presented McCaskill with a problem. He cannot wear any type of footwear except his ever-present cowboy boots. "I feel like I'm going to break an ankle if I wear regular shoes rather than boots," he explained, "and my calves hurt so badly after attempting to wear normal shoes that I can hardly stand it. I guess my arches are just

too high after a lifetime in boots." He went to the proper authorities at The Mirage, explained his situation, and was given special permission to wear his cowboy boots. "When Bellagio opened, there was never even a question," he said proudly. "They understand." McCaskill also wears a cowboy hat all the time — except when he is working. "There again," he said of his Western attire, "I had to get special permission from the DMV to wear my cowboy hat in the photo for my Nevada driver's license."



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Gary McCaskill

McCaskill has always been a poker player. "I played all the time and everybody knew it," he said of his youth. His reputation preceded him when, in his 1958 junior high school yearbook under 'Predictions,' the prognostication was that Gary McCaskill would become a poker player. And so he did. "I played poker in private games in Dallas with many players who are now legends before Las Vegas had even heard of

them." His career path took a detour when he decided on a career in entertainment. He played in a variety of bands. In the mid-'60s he went to Las Vegas with a band to play in nightclubs. "I quickly found out that there wasn't a lot of money in the entertainment business unless you made the big time," he said.

To supplement his income, he went to work doing what he loved to do — playing poker. He became a shill, first at the old Marina (where the MGM Grand is located today) and then at the Golden Nugget. "I learned to deal," he explained, "by watching and playing. Pretty soon, I was dealing at the Nugget." McCaskill has dealt in many Las Vegas poker rooms and has played all over California and Las Vegas. "I've played and dealt for years," he said. "There was a time when I even had a backer and made a pretty good living, but I eventually retired from playing. Everything changed. I used to play against gamblers," he rationalized, "but somewhere along the line, they all became players. Know what I mean? It just wasn't the same." So, he became a full-time poker dealer.

The best of McCaskill's most memorable

"poker stories from the box" is without a doubt the one about the day that a car drove into his poker table! It was on day shift in the early '70s when he was dealing at the Golden Nugget in Downtown Las Vegas. "A car came crashing through the front window," he said emphatically. "It hit my table! It sounds funny to tell it, but it wasn't funny at all. Two people were killed. Two boys were drag racing down Fremont Street and one lost control of his car, jumped the curb, and crashed into the poker room."

Here's another early '70s story from the Nugget: McCaskill was routinely dealing the \$10-\$20 hold'em game when he noticed that the deck felt a little bit thin. He counted down the cards. That's when he realized that one of the players was folding his cards by throwing them under the poker table! "He evidently didn't like the cards he was picking up," McCaskill drawled, "so he saw to it that they didn't go back into the deck! I politely asked him to stop doing that and I told the next dealer to watch him."

McCaskill is a laid-back, slow-talking, low-keyed Texan. When I asked him if he had ever "lost his cool" in the box, he emphatically answered, "No!" And then he told me

about Jellybean, the ultimate "keep your cool" dealer. "Jellybean had a reputation for never losing his temper — no matter what. He was dealing lowball — and I'm sure you've heard stories about the misconduct of some lowball players. The action was on a guy who had been losing, and he had a bad reputation. He looked at his cards and promptly threw his drink in Jellybean's face. Without missing a beat, and in a very calm and gentle voice, Jellybean said, 'Does that mean that you're not going to call?'"

I asked him if he remembered the biggest token that he ever got. "Without a doubt," he responded. "I was dealing \$10-\$20 hold'em. A hand was over, I asked to see the hands, and I shoved the pot to the winner. I gathered the cards, scrambled, and began shuffling for the next hand when a guy said, 'What about my hand?' He was well known for being a jerk. His two cards were sort of hidden under a mess of his chips. To me, he was taking a shot, and I don't know why. I call an act like that a 'mean move.' In those days, the dealer had to pay for any mistakes with his own hard-earned money, so if the jerk had held the winning hand, the money would have come

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out of my pocket. Thank goodness, he didn't have the best hand. The players were well aware of what was going on. On the very next hand, the same jerk player was involved. The winner of the previous hand won that hand, and said to him, 'Because of the shot you just tried to pull on the dealer, and because a lot of this is your money, I think I'll just give this pot to the dealer.' And he did! It was over \$600!"

My personal favorite of the poker stories that McCaskill shared with me came under the heading of his strangest poker story. He was dealing on the upper deck (the high-limit area) at The Mirage. The game was \$300-\$600 seven-card stud. He called an open seat and pretty soon, a well-dressed gentleman sat down and laid a hefty bankroll on the table. "I asked if he was ready to be dealt in," McCaskill said. "He shook his head yes. As I dealt the next hand, I asked him for his ante. He looked at his cards. I said, 'I need your \$50 ante, sir.' He almost came out of his chair. 'Isn't this \$3-\$6 stud?' he asked. I answered, 'Yes, \$300-\$600 stud.'" He gave me a strange look, hesitantly gave me his ante, and proceeded to play and win one hand! It was a \$3,000 pot. He then cashed out and got into his \$3-\$6 stud game.

The saddest story in McCaskill's career

occurred at the Nugget. The game was \$10-\$20 hold'em. "There were lots of regulars and locals who played in those \$10-\$20 games at the Nugget," McCaskill recalled. "I remember that Casey Jones was in this particular game. A tourist was sitting next to me in seat one. Casey bet, the tourist raised, Casey reraised, the tourist raised again, and Casey raised him back. When the action got back to the tourist, nothing happened. I looked at him and said, 'Sir, it's on you.' I thought for a moment that he had gone to sleep. I spoke to him again and I tapped his hand. He slumped over and I knew we had a big problem — he was dead. He was gone — just like that (as he snapped his fingers). The dead man did have the winning hand, and he was awarded the pot. The money was put in an envelope and held for his family. It's the only time I ever saw such a thing."

McCaskill followed his saddest story with his funniest. "Bill Boyd was playing heads up against a man named Dr. Zid. They were playing no-limit five-card stud in a far corner of the old Nugget. A hand came down where they both were showing an A-K-J-10. Mr. Boyd bet, and Dr. Zid raised. Mr. Boyd shoved everything into the pot (and

it was a lot). He stood up and said, 'Dr. Zid is going to need some time to think about this. I'm going to eat.' He left the table and went to dinner! As it turned out, Dr. Zid did put some thought into his decision. He finally folded, and as it turned out, he folded the winning hand. He had jacks and Mr. Boyd had absolutely nothing. Bill Boyd was the best five-card player I've ever seen. An interesting sidebar to that story is that as a boy, I went to school with a kid named 'Zid.' He ended up being a poker-playing neurosurgeon in Texas — Dr. Zid!"

When asked about other great players, McCaskill responded, "Chip Reese is the best all-around player on the face of the earth, both tournaments and ring games. Bobby Butler is the person I would most hate to have to play heads up against. He has absolutely no tells."

Of course, I had to ask him about female players. "Irene Shubert is the best female ring-game player I have ever seen. (Shubert is a high-limit seven-card stud player at Bellagio.) As far as tournaments, there is a gal out there with a mouth as big as the Grand Canyon. I think she is a real good tournament player." I didn't ask her name, as I was afraid of the answer.

In conclusion, I asked McCaskill what changes he had seen take place in his career after so many years. "Dealing has really changed over the years," he said with a smile, "and all for the better. We actually have job security now, a 401K plan, and so forth. I'll admit, I love my job. Just last Monday, I was dealing a \$150-\$300 game. A regular was in seat one. I came into the box smiling, as usual. He said, 'You aggravate the hell out of me. I've been here for 24 hours and I'm losing, and you're smiling and acting like you enjoy your job.' I responded to him, 'Yes, indeed, I do enjoy my work.' Dealing has been good to me. I have no complaints about my career choice."

I asked McCaskill if he had retirement plans. "You better believe it! There is a big ranch in Gonzales, Texas, that has been in our family for 135 years. Right now, it isn't being worked. I plan to go back to Texas and to the ranch, and get back to being a full-time cowboy." ♦

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| Event #2 | Stud Hi-Lo • \$100 + \$20
Monday, May 17 • POST TIME: 7:00 PM
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| Event #3 | No-Limit Hold'em • \$100 + \$20
Tuesday, May 18 • POST TIME: 7:00 PM
\$15,000 Guaranteed! |
| Event #4 | Bounty Hold'em • \$100 + \$20
Wednesday, May 19 • POST TIME: 7:00 PM
\$20,000 Guaranteed! |
| Event #5 | Omaha Hi-Lo • \$150 + \$20
Thursday, May 20 • POST TIME: 7:00 PM
\$20,000 Guaranteed! |
| Event #6 | Limit Hold'em • \$150 + \$20
Friday, May 21 • POST TIME: 7:00 PM
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| Special Event | David Sklansky Seminar
Hosted by Mike Caro (MCU)
Saturday, May 22 • 1:00 PM |
| Event #7 | No-Limit Hold'em • \$200 + \$25
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Daniel Negreanu: The New Kid on the Block Talks About What Makes Him Successful — Part II

BY NOLAN DALLA

Introduction: In a room full of poker players, Daniel Negreanu stands out — not because of his physical stature, as he's of average height and weight, and not because of his temperament, as he's usually reserved with his comments. Negreanu stands out because he just seems to be so different from everyone around him. Indeed, the first thing you notice is his youth. Negreanu doesn't look like someone you'd expect to see at a poker table — let alone playing in a \$300-\$600 game, or winning a major poker tournament. He looks more like a college student or someone going to his first job interview. But don't let outward appearances fool you. Negreanu is a poker player — to the very core. That's not the only illusion. Negreanu isn't exactly a "newcomer" to the game, either. His cool demeanor conceals nearly a decade of experience playing in poker games from West Toronto to East Los Angeles, with stops in Las Vegas in between. Negreanu has played in numerous big events — winning several of them, including his first World Series title in 1998. He has played thousands of

hours in live-action games, often pounding his opponents into submission with a motley multiplicity of inquisitive moves. So, what makes him so successful? Why is he different? Negreanu is a true believer in a scholastic approach to poker. He combines a studious dedication to the game with many attributes taken from other successful players he has watched through the years, thus creating a dynamic new style that is all his own. The results speak for themselves: Now 24 years of age, perhaps no poker player in the world has a more promising future. I interviewed Negreanu recently at Crystal Park Casino in Compton, California, where he agreed to share his thoughts with Card Player readers.

Nolan Dalla: When you were coming up through the ranks, there must have been many occasions when your opponents seriously underestimated your abilities. Does it give you any special satisfaction to defeat players who may not have respected you because of your youth?

Daniel Negreanu: For me, it's much more of a personal satisfaction. When I get to the final table or I am playing in a ring game for real money, I feel like a carnivore. I don't hate anybody or want to prove anything to anyone — I just want to win the money. I want to gut them and take them for everything I can, because I know that's what they want to do to me. But don't misunderstand, I don't mean that in a vicious way — I always believe in being a gentleman at the poker table.

ND: You told a story about your first poker experience in Las Vegas. You said that you were outplayed. Why was that first trip such a humiliation?

DN: The game was just completely different compared to what I was used to back in Toronto. In Las Vegas, I was playing with players who were much tougher and more aggressive. I had just never been confronted with that style of game. Back home, I was used to playing with players who were weaker and more timid, and I could bully them. But in Las Vegas — they were bullying me back. I had no idea how to deal with that. So, it just took me some time. It took me a few trips before I changed my style of play to take advantage of players who were overly aggressive.

ND: Did you sense at the time that maybe you weren't good enough, and that maybe poker wasn't for you?

DN: Absolutely not. In fact, the early losses I took made me want to win even more. Making mistakes or having a bad session every now and then just motivates me to improve. And I continue to try to improve even today. Every six months or so, I evaluate my game and look back. I always reach the same conclusion — that six months ago, I played horribly. It's incredible that every month or two I learn something new and improve as a player.

ND: Wait a minute. You mean that even now, you look back at mistakes you made six months ago — when you were winning tournaments like the World Series?

DN: Sure. I can look back now and see

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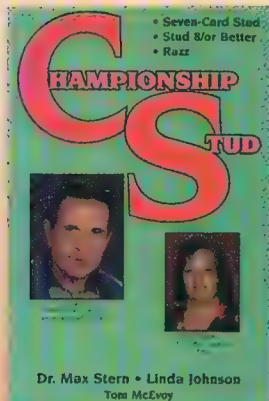
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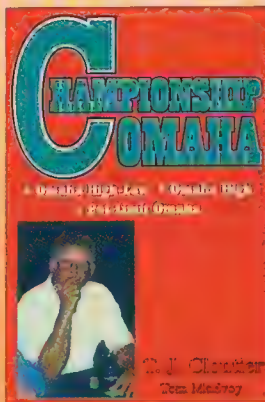
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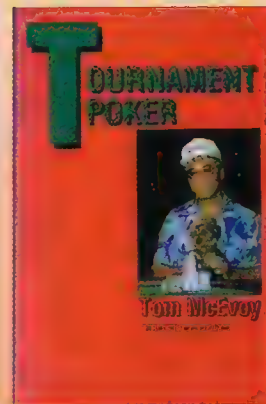
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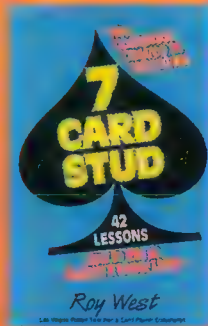
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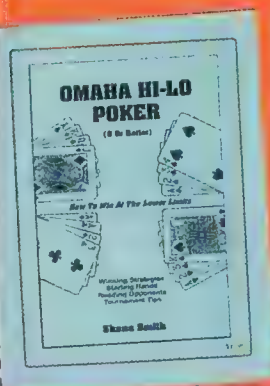
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mistakes that I was making six months ago. I look at some of the things I did back then, and I would just do it completely different today.

ND: So, how do you remember your mistakes and develop new strategies? Do you take notes?

DN: I used to take notes. I tried that. I actually did a lot of things, and I still keep very accurate records. But as far as notes go, I used to keep them, but now they are just mental notes — more or less. I remember hands and I think of how I could have played certain hands differently. For example — and this is kind of funny — back when I was playing poker full time in Toronto, I was in a pot-limit game, which at the time was a very big game for me. The buy-in was \$1,000, so I bought in for \$1,000 and got outplayed on this one hand. The other player bet \$600 on the river and I had a pretty good hand, but instead of calling, I threw it away. One day three years later, I was thinking about that same hand. I finally remembered him doing something, and I said to myself, "Wow! He bluffed me!" It took me three years to figure it out, but I finally did.

ND: You obviously have an incredible memory for hands.

DN: When I play hands, they stick in my mind. I also tend to remember people I've played with for a very long time — not everyone, of course, but I can usually remember the things that were important.

ND: Do you view the ability to recall hands in detail as vital to being a winning player, or is it just mental clutter that's not really important?

DN: Well, everyone is different. But for me, the ability to recall hands helps me. I usually can remember what position the raise came from. I remember who was at the table. I remember how many handed it was, what the action was before the flop, after the flop, on the turn, and on the river. I always remember stuff like that. I'm not talking about every hand, of course. Some hands are just mundane. But I can always remember the big hands, which I try to analyze later.

ND: Do you pay more attention to certain things? If so, what are they?

DN: The first time I play with someone whom I've never played with before, I usually pay a lot of attention to him. My first impression (of the player) is important, so

I usually remember those things. I also look for people who play well, or seem to have success. Ever since I was growing up, I've always watched those kinds of people to try to figure out what they're doing right. When I started playing poker, I lost the first few times, but it didn't discourage me. I remember, I was watching a player named John Seto. It seemed like every time I saw him, he won. So, I tried to mimic him. He was a very tight player and I learned a little bit about that. Then, I noticed another more aggressive player — and he seemed to win, too. So, I watched for other kinds of things that he was doing. Even to this day, I do some mimicking. Like right now, I've been watching O'Neil Longson. I like a lot of the things he does. Another player I watched was Stu Ungar, since I played with him once. Nobody had a clue what he was doing, but I sorta did, because I was paying close attention. He could play any two cards, it didn't really matter — he'd find a way to make a profit out of it. He had a very unique style.

ND: So, when you watch a player, how do you know those same things will work for you?

DN: Well, I don't. Sometimes it's trial and error. But with Longson, for example, I notice that he does lots of things that are very effective. It's kind of strange because subconsciously, I even stack my chips the same way they do. I guess you could say that I steal knowledge from all the players I know who are successful and I combine it with my own style.

ND: What are your strongest and weakest games?

DN: My strongest game is no-limit hold'em, followed by pot-limit hold'em, which is very similar. My weakest game is probably seven-card stud (high). I just don't have nearly the hours at that game that I do at hold'em. But during the last year, I've been working really hard at stud.

ND: When you say "working hard," what do you mean? Do you mean reading books?

DN: Most of my education comes from observing and talking to other players. Actually, there is one book that totally changed my success in limit hold'em tournaments. Ken Buntjer's *The Secret to Winning Big in Tournament Poker* really helped me. Before that, I had won a few no-limit hold'em tournaments, but nobody thought I could play limit poker because I was too

aggressive and I played too many hands, which is more of a no-limit or pot-limit style. Buntjer's book was perfect. He can help an average player make final tables, just from following some of the things that he says. It taught me what gear to be in at different stages of a tournament. It changed me. I think it's the best book ever written on limit hold'em tournaments.

ND: Do you think that it's realistic — for you or anyone else — to expect that you can support yourself just by playing in tournaments?

DN: I've always wanted to play just tournaments, but playing strictly tournaments is very, very expensive. So, I've always had to play live action to be able to afford to play in tournaments. After I won the *World Series* last year, I was able to concentrate my play only on tournaments for a few months — and I did very well. During that time, I won an event in four consecutive tournaments. So, under the right conditions, it's possible — but I must add that it takes some luck to win consistently in tournament poker.

ND: You are successful in both tournaments and live action. What's the main thing needed to win at both?

DN: It's very difficult to do both successfully. Lots of tournament players play poorly in cash games because in tournaments, they are protected, in a sense. What I mean is, they can lose only so much money (the buy-in). But in live action, they can go into their pockets over and over again and aren't protected by busting out. A player might get lucky one day of the week and catch good cards and win a tournament, but if he plays the same way the other six days — he's going to be broke at the end of the week.

ND: So, are many tournament players overrated?

DN: Let me say this: My opinion is that the best players in the world are not playing in tournaments. They are playing \$500-\$1,000 and \$800-\$1,600 at Bellagio. One reason those players don't play in tournaments is that they can make a lot more money playing live action. As far as differences go, to win in live action, the goal is to play your best poker *all the time*. In a tournament, there are situations where you have to gamble and sometimes put your money into the pot knowing that you have the worst of it. Those situations just doesn't arise in a cash game. So, what I'm saying is, playing "bad" is actually cor-

rect sometimes in a tournament.

ND: What are your thoughts about ring games, particularly the higher limits?

DN: In the higher limits, there is always something to learn from every session. I have played as high as \$300-\$600. There's a big difference between that and, let's say, \$100-\$200. There's a huge difference as far as the level of skill. Eventually, I want to play in the biggest game I can, but the quality of play is so dramatically better the higher up you go. You have to learn more and more and more.

ND: So, is the skill level between a \$30-\$60 game and a \$300-\$600 game like night and day?

DN: Completely. It doesn't even compare. They are just different types of games. In a \$30-\$60 game, you have average players, some good players, and maybe one or two really strong players. But in a \$300-\$600 game, you may be playing with six of the world's best and one bad player. So, it just calls for a completely different style to win.

ND: Let's talk a little bit about your personal life. I notice that even though you love sports, you rarely gamble on sporting events. Can you explain?

DN: I've just seen so many people mess up when it comes to sports gambling. They have poker talent and they make so much money at the poker table — and then they just gamble it away. I won't name any names, but that's why a few solid tournament players are always broke. I realized that you can't "just sorta" do it once in a while. A little bit here, and you start betting a little bit more, and it just escalates. So, I chose not to bet on anything at all when it comes to sports, horses, or the table games.

ND: One final question: If I were to interview Daniel Negreanu 20 years from now, where would I find him?

DN: Look for me out on the golf course. I'll probably be playing poker two or three times a week — and I'll be married with a couple of kids.

ND: Daniel, I'm sure that I speak for many readers when I wish you success at this year's *World Series*, and in the future.

DN: Thank you. ♦

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You Don't Have to Be the Favorite to Make Money

Caution: This column contains gratuitous math.

A lowball situation illustrates a fundamental poker principle: Just because you're not the favorite in a particular pot doesn't mean that continuing in the pot is a bad play. In fact, your hand can have a higher expectation than the favorite, and thus be more profitable. Advanced seven-card stud players, for example, take advantage of this situation when they bet what may be the second-best hand either to drive other players out of the pot, thus leaving dead money that gives them a positive expectation on their bet, or to force those other players to continue playing hands that don't have a positive expectation. The money that those others lose by continuing in the pot is split — in the long run, of course — in similar situations, between the holders of the best and second-best hands. No, it's not split in any single pot, but over a period of time.

An example of how it works in lowball arose during a hand that I played at the Normandie Casino in Gardena — a club that has, by the way, extremely good lowball action in its high-stakes section, usually with a \$15-\$30 and \$20-\$40 game, and sometimes three.

The Normandie permits any player to kill the pot after looking at three cards. Many clubs permit killing after looking at two. When you kill a pot, you put in an extra blind that is twice the size of the big blind, which also doubles the size of the game for that hand. A \$15-\$30 game temporarily becomes \$30-\$60. It's probably not good strategy in a game in which you kill on two cards to do so in early position, because what often happens is, you bet twice as much on a hand that you would have thrown away if you hadn't blinded the pot. Frequent pot killers often end up drawing two cards, and sometimes three. Where you can blind on three cards, however, it probably is good strategy to kill on three low cards from any position. More than two-thirds of the time, you will end up with either a good one-card draw or a pat hand. Plus, you get the last action before the draw, and often can raise, and at twice the limit.

I was in a four-way pot with the second player pat, probably holding a pat eight. I was on the button and had the best draw, 3-2-A-joker. Two other players with worse draws were in the pot. In this situation, the pat hand wins more of the pots than I. Does this mean that I make a mistake by participating in and even building "his" pot? No, because in the long run, I take out more money



Michael Wiesenberg

The Low Rollers

than I put in. Also, most of the pots that I win are worth more than those that the pat hand wins.

Here are the particulars: In a \$15-\$30 game, I saw 2-3-4 on my first three cards, and killed the pot from the button by adding five chips to the one that I already had in for the dealer blind. The first player came in for a raise. Since the game was now \$30-\$60, that meant he opened for \$60. The next player

raised to \$90. The next player called. No one else came in and the action got to me. My five cards were now A-2-3-joker-K, a terrific start. I raised again, making the total \$120. The other three players all called. The first player drew one card. The second player stood pat. The third player drew one, as did I. After the draw, the first player bet. The second player didn't look happy, but called. The third player sadly showed the king that he had caught and folded. At this point, there was \$630 in the pot: four bets of \$120, three blinds that added up to \$30, and two \$60 after-the-draw bets. I caught a magical five and raised. The first player called and the next player showed his hand to his neighbor and folded. I assumed that he had an eight. The pot was now \$750. I showed down my wheel; the first player showed that he had made a 7-6, and immediately called for a new setup.

A player who doesn't understand the principle catches a king, throws his cards, and yells, "See why I hate to draw to this hand?" He doesn't realize that despite losing more than half the times the situation comes up, sometimes even more than two-thirds of the time, every extra bet that he puts in has a positive expectation.

For example, I used Mike Caro's *Poker Probe* on four typical hands, more than 100,000 trials:

Hand	Wins	Percentage
No. 1: 7♣ 6♥ 4♦ 2♠	11,074	11.07
No. 2: 8♠ 7♥ 3♦ 2♣ A♦	45,974	45.97
No. 3: 7♦ 5♥ 4♠ A♠	12,084	12.08
No. 4: 3♥ 2♥ A♠ joker	30,868	30.87

On the pots that I win, I profit by 12 small bets before the draw and somewhere between one bet and three after the draw. The only times I win only one bet are when I make an eight and neither of the other two draws makes a seven. It is true that sometimes I lose one bet. I never lose more than one, because I raise only with

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7-4 or better, and that always is the best hand. It also is true, though, that often I win two bets, and sometimes more, so an average profit of more than one is probably conservative. The average pot that I win gains me \$480, while the average pot that I lose costs me \$120; about 31 percent of the time, I win \$480, or \$148.80, while 69 percent of the time, I lose \$120, or \$82.80. That's a healthy profit of \$66 per pot.

After I put in the fourth bet, it doesn't really matter what the player with the pat hand does (as long as I know that he has an eight), nor once they have put two or more bets in does it matter whether the other two call or fold. (Although, I probably would prefer that they fold, because of the dead money they leave.) If the two worse draws fold, in the situation detailed previously, my win rate is approximately 41 percent against the pat hand (as determined by *Poker Probe*). The average pot that I lose probably costs me \$180 (an extra two bets to drive out the other two players), while the average pot that I win gains me \$540. About 41 percent of the time, I win \$540, or \$221.40, while 59 percent of the time, I lose \$180, or \$106.20. This nets me a much healthier \$115.20 per pot.

So, in the given situation, if the second player raises again (that is, puts in the fifth bet), and the next player calls, you should reraise. The assumption of the other call is that he is drawing, and his draw must be worse than yours. (If the opener calls — rather than putting in one more bet — he likely is drawing, too.) If you knew for absolute certain that the pat hand was an eight, you always would be willing to go one more bet as long as the other two kept calling. How much better if the pat hand is a nine! Since one more raise on the part of the pat hand might indicate a good seven or better, however, you probably would quit raising at that point. His flat call on the third or fourth bet would indicate from most players any eight or a rough seven. You have to know your players, of course. Some are capable of many bets on any nine; others wouldn't even put the third raise in on a pat seven.

Why do you profit? In a multiway pot, two of your opponents are making a mistake. The pat hand profits also, and usually by a greater amount than you, except for the implied odds. When you add those in, your profit might even be more than that of the pat hand, particularly in a double-limit

game. When the pat hand loses, he loses more than you; when you win, you win more than he. When you make a winning hand, four-fifths of the time you raise and win when you get called. In a typical game, you will be called all of those times. This is part of your implied odds. True, sometimes you catch an eight and lose when you call, because one of the other draws wins, but that is more than offset by the times your eight is good, probably more than two-thirds of the time. Of course, you are a good enough player to fold your hand when the pat hand bets, one of the one-card draws raises, and you catch an eight. If all of the cards were faceup, and the two other players played properly, they wouldn't put in even one bet in this situation. At least one of those players likely is playing a hand that he shouldn't, but fortunately for you, he doesn't play perfectly. He might be drawing rough, two cards, or even dead! In those situations, you profit even more.

You win approximately 30 percent of the time, on average. Of that, 80 percent of the time, you have a hand that should win at least two bets. It's hard to predict the actual action after the draw, but typical possi-

bilities include: a bet, two folds, and a raise, which the first bettor reluctantly calls, gaining you two bets; a bet, a call, and your raise, generally called in one place, gaining you three bets; a bet, a raise, your reraise, and one call, gaining you four bets; three checks, your bet, and one call, gaining you one bet. Other possibilities exist, but your average gain about a fourth of the time (0.3×0.8) is at least two bets, for a net of half a bet. In a double-limit game, this is equivalent to a full before-the-draw bet.

What if your hand in this situation is 9-3-2-A-joker? Whether the first player draws or stands pat makes no difference. Pretend that the nine is a king. What if everyone checks after the draw and you pair fours? Some players use the strategy of bluffing when they pair their top card. *Not here.* Bluffing in that situation is using game theory, which you do when you don't know what the other player has or will do. You almost can guarantee that in this situation, someone will call. That, after all, was the point of your earlier action: The implied odds increased your expectation. To phrase it differently, let's say that there are four bets each from four players, making 16 bets. Would one double bet succeed two-sixteenths (one-eighth) of the time? Probably not. But it needs to for you to profit. Game theory assumes that you know nothing of the other players' intentions. You usually can improve on game theory in a poker game, because you *do* know something of the other players' intentions: They're not going to let you buy that pot. Even in a single-limit game, your bet would have to succeed more than one-sixteenth of the time to be profitable. The pat hand undoubtedly will call. He won't like it, and he will grumble while putting in the chips, "I know I'm just throwing this money away," but he will call. Even in the rare case that he doesn't, one of the other two will, unless they both pair. And I've even seen players call with pairs in this situation.

If you catch a nine and all pass to you, don't bet unless the first player put in the last bet, *always* bets an eight after the draw in this situation, is capable of that much action with a nine or 10 against three opponents, and passed. And still, one of the *other* players might pass an eight with the intention of calling any bet. There are too many ifs. Catching a nine in this situation is only marginally better than catching a king, and definitely not worth a bet. ♦

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BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN



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Playing Between the Raindrops

The way it was in the world of poker, the way it is, the way I wish it could be — these are the things I'll be talking about in "Back in the Saddle." For this first outing, I'm taking a look back at a man and a tournament, and the way it was in the early '80s.

Bob Stupak, also known as "the Polish Maverick," held a poker tournament in the '80s called *The Americas Cup*. Widely known as the founder of Vegas World and the Stratosphere Tower, Stupak's latest innovation is a casino modeled after the Titanic. (Even Jay Leno commented on that one!) Although he has had some difficulties with a few people and the local political casino power structure, Stupak has always been a true friend of mine. He is the only owner who ever cooperated with the Poker Players Association, which we set up in the '80s to try to upgrade poker and standardize its rules and procedures for ring games and tournaments. (Many of the PPA rules and procedures, which were drafted by Bob Ciaffone, have since become the standard for today's tournaments.)

Known for his flamboyance, Stupak once bet \$1 million on the outcome of a *Super Bowl* game — and won! He also bet \$1 million on both sides in another *Super Bowl*, trying to "middle" the game. The middle number was seven, which was put up by Michael Gaughan at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. If you bet the middle, you would win one bet and lose one bet if the number fell on anything except seven. The underdog was getting 7.5

points and the favorite was laying 6.5 points. It was one of the very few times that a Vegas sportsbook was actually gambling. It essentially laid Stupak \$2 million-to-\$100,000 that the number would not fall on seven. It didn't, and Stupak wound up losing \$100,000, the amount of the vig.

Now, let's get back to the poker tournament. Stupak followed all of the rules of the PPA for *The Americas Cup*, and it became the only tournament ever sanctioned by the PPA. He invited the winner of it to play him in a freeroll heads-up no-limit hold'em match for his venerable Rolls Royce limousine. Berry Johnston, the 1986 world champion of poker and a member of the Seniors Hall of Fame, won the tournament and the chance to play Stupak for the Rolls (a beauty that he reportedly had won in a home game). But he didn't beat him, so Stupak retained the limo's title and Johnston kept the tournament title.

A few weeks later, the *Stairway to the Stars* tournament was held at the Stardust. A few of the events were "sudden death" matches in which we played heads-up poker until the last undefeated player was declared the winner. Stupak wanted to play the no-limit hold'em match, but he arrived too late to sign up. Since I had drawn a bye on the first round, Bob Thompson, the tournament director, came over to me saying that the only way that Stupak could play was if one of us who had drawn a bye would play him.

"OK, I'll play you," I told Stupak, "but if you lose, I'll win the use of your Rolls

Royce limo for one week. And if you win, I'll get 20 percent of your action in the tournament." He agreed, and the game was on. I got lucky and won the match — and even went on to win the tournament. When my wife's parents visited us a few weeks later, they were overwhelmed to find that Stupak had graciously put his impressive limousine, complete with chauffeur, at their disposal around-the-clock for the entire week of their visit.

In addition to being quite a promoter, Stupak is one heck of a good poker player. At Vegas World, he was continually building and remodeling. It seemed like he had an expansion project going on daily during *The Americas Cup*. At one point, the roof over the poker room was being repaired, and it began pouring down rain. I'm sure that you've heard it said that if it's the only game that he can find, a poker player will play on the roof in the rain in a crooked game. Of course, the game we were playing at Stupak's joint wasn't crooked — but it was raining through the roof. So, what did we do? We played between the raindrops.

And that's the way it was. Till next time, stay lucky!♦

Editor's note: Oklahoma Johnny Hale is the founder of the Seniors World Championship of Poker. His new book, Gentleman Gambler, is available through Card Player. You may reach Hale at his E-mail address, oklajohnny@aol.com, or c/o Card Player.

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All About POKER

From The Coach

By Bob Ciaffone

Button Game Seating Rules

Modern closed-hand poker, as played in public cardrooms, is played with a button — a flat disk — to indicate who in theory would have dealt the cards had there not been a house dealer. Since there are no individual cards that are faceup, the action

starts by position relative to the button. The most frequent method is to have the two hands in front of the button post blinds, with the initial-round betting action on the first player to the left of the outermost (big) blind. Subsequent betting rounds start with the first player to the left of the button. Since position controls both who puts up money at the start and who has the advantage of acting later in the betting, it is important that seating be controlled by fair yet easy to administer rules. There is quite a variance between cardrooms in the rules used to govern seating, so we need to talk about which rules are optimum. Here, we will discuss the rules used for hold'em and Omaha, as lowball and draw high have their own needs and traditions.

The first rule set we will look at concerns starting a new game. For many years, the button was automatically put at the first seat on the dealer's right. This method is both unfair and unwise. If players know where the button is going to start, they will try to use it to their advantage. They will lock up a seat that allows them to go as long as possible without posting a blind. If those seats and others are locked and the only ones open are in the blind positions, many players will come to the table late, making it harder to get a quorum to start the game.

The fair and sensible method is a high-card deal to see who gets the button. I lobbied long and hard to get cardrooms to do this obvious thing. In 1984, my booklet *The Official Rules of Poker* endorsed dealing for the button — the first manual to do so, as far as I know. Now, I think the majority of cardrooms use this method, at least for their higher-stakes games. I think all games should deal for the button. The unnecessarily slow acceptance of this method is a good illustration of the principle, "Everything eventually will be done right, but it always takes more time and is more difficult than need be."

Once the new game is under way, it is general practice to wait until the button has made a complete revolution around the table before treating it as an established game for the purpose of requiring newcomers to post a blind before receiving a hand. However, if the seat has missed a blind, a player who sits there should have to post. The courtesy extended to new players of not posting when a game has just started *should apply only to a seat that the blinds have not yet reached*. Otherwise, an incoming player will wait until the blinds go by and then will sit down for free. This would be neither fair nor good for the game. Let me emphasize that delay in taking a seat should bring criticism to the foolish house rule rather than to the player who sensibly took his time about getting seated.

A new player to a game is required to either take the big blind in turn or post the amount of the big blind. Whether it is better strategy for him to wait for the big blind or come in behind the button depends on such things as how many players are actively being dealt in and whether the small blind is exactly half the big blind, but it's a close decision. Naturally, if one cannot get the full number of hands for the amount of the big blind because the button is no longer on the player's immediate left, it is sensible to wait for the big blind in one's normal turn. It is desirable for both the house and the other players in the game to have the new player get into action ASAP. However, lots of cardrooms try to

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coerce this by saying that if a new player locks up a seat and does not take the big blind when it reaches him, he is treated as a player who's already in the game, and is given a "missed blind button," meaning that he must post both blinds (the amount of the little blind is dead and does not count toward his bet) or wait for the big blind.

Many others and I do not like this rule. A player who allows the blinds to go past his new seat may be doing so for a variety of reasons. Maybe he already had taken the blinds in another game and wants to play his button. Maybe he wants to get settled by doing such things as purchasing chips at the cashier's cage, or locating a seat cushion, ashtray, or beverage table. Maybe he just wants to make a restroom stop before joining the game. Also, it is quite possible that he may misjudge when the blinds are going to reach his seat, because one or more players get up from the table. He will be annoyed if he is (unreasonably) required to put up some dead money in addition to the amount of the big blind in order to receive a hand, and probably is going to do exactly what you do not want him to do. He is going to ask to be dealt out until his big blind arrives. Now, he may be out for half a dozen more hands, and in a bad mood, to boot. That's why the better rule is to give new players an option of when to enter the game. People seldom get annoyed because they have been allowed to exercise an option.

A common occurrence is for a player in a game to want to move to a new seat. Maybe he wants to try to change his luck. Maybe he wants to move away from a smoker, or get out of a nonsmoking seat. Maybe the player would like to sit next to a friend, or an attractive person of the opposite sex. At any rate, I think the penalty for switching seats should be just strong enough that the player does not have an incentive to do it to dodge the blind. The rule that I advocate is to give the player who moves away from the blinds the option of either posting the amount of the big blind or waiting for the big blind to reach him. It is too strict for him to have to put up dead money to get a hand, and he is liable to sit out until the big blind reaches him if this rule is used. We want to get players into action, not have them sit out. Posting just the big blind is enough to stop players from moving to try to get some monetary advantage from doing so. Let me add that I think any seat change away from the blinds should bring this rule into play, not just a seat change in which you jump more than two players.

A rule that I like very much is allowing a player who is switching seats to "deal off." This means that he can go to a new seat immediately after playing the button, and then wait for the blinds and button to go by him without penalty. He does not profit monetarily by doing this; he only breaks even. The virtue of allowing this — aside from being fair — is that the new player coming into the game who takes the seat of the person who moved can sit down behind the button and post in the optimum position, so he probably will elect to take a hand right away rather than wait for the big blind to arrive.

If a player wants to move to another game, should he be allowed to play out his position (play until due for the blind)? Obviously, if nobody is waiting for his old seat, there is no reason to compel him to move immediately. However, you can

get situations in which someone in another game wants his seat, and someone else from the player's list wants the seat of the player who is switching games, ad infinitum. To allow the player to play out his position produces poker gridlock. I think that in the larger cardrooms, a player who's voluntarily moving to another game should be required to move right away, except when he is due for the little blind or the button (in most poker rooms, a new player could not get a hand and would have to wait anyway).

Rules governing seating come into play every day, in contrast to the technical rules of poker. A cardroom whose rules do not address the various seating situations that can arise, or that uses antiquated or inferior laws, quickly will get the reputation of being a second-rate place to play. If you are in cardroom management, sprucing up your seating rules would be a quick way to get a good reputation. If you are a player, and your favorite cardroom is using some rules that you do not like, maybe this column will give you some ammunition to procure a change. Top-flight cardrooms have top-flight seating rules. ♦

Editor's note: Bob Ciaffone is available for poker lessons. He may be reached at (517) 792-0884, or by E-mail at coach999@concentric.net. His book Pot-limit and No-limit Poker and his latest book Improve Your Poker are available through Card Player.

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Hi. Come on in. Try that vibrating recliner while we talk about your ego.

Many poker players have had their bankrolls destroyed because their egos vastly overestimated their poker-playing abilities. Maybe we can prevent the destruction of your bankroll. Let's take an inventory and find out if you really are a good poker player.

Your ego will rate you, at the very least, as one of the better players anytime you sit in a game, whether that's true or not. Most players do overrate their poker skills and abilities. If you don't think so, answer this question: "When was the last time you sat in a game in which you judged most of the players to be better than you?" The answer is, "Never." Your ego would not let that happen.

So, being entirely truthful and honest with yourself, I suggest that you take an inventory of your poker skills and abilities. If you're like the vast majority of players, your reaction to that suggestion was, "I know I'm a good player. I don't have to take any inventory." Do it anyway. Humor me. You might just learn something.

Start with the question, "Why am I a good poker player?" If indeed you are a good player, you should be able to state specifically why that is so. Answers like "I've been

playing for 15 years" or "I've read most of the poker books" don't count. They're too vague. Get specific. Exactly what are your poker skills and abilities? What specifically do you know about the game and its strategic variations that most other players don't know? I've asked these questions of many people who thought they were good players. You'd like to know how they answered, wouldn't you?

They mostly hemmed and hawed and answered in the vaguest of terms. Often in quizzing students, we discover together that not only don't they have information concerning some vast area of poker, they don't even realize that such an area exists. No one knows it all.

I'm constantly learning about the game of poker, and I'm constantly being surprised at how much I don't know. No matter how much you know, there is someone, somewhere, who knows more and plays better. And I'm always looking for that person, because I want to know more and play better.

You are prevented from learning more when you think that you already know everything, because all knowledge begins with the statement, "I don't know." If you already know everything, you can't learn. That's why

"a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." Having that "little knowledge" tends to make you believe that you have *all* of the knowledge, which prevents you from learning more — and makes you overrate your abilities. So, if you think that you already know everything there is to know, your ego is doing you dirty.

I was sitting behind a world-class player — with his permission, I hasten to add — watching his action. At one point, he made a move that led me to believe that he had taken leave of his senses. But when he explained it to me after the hand was over, I saw the logic of it. Here was something that I had missed in my poker education, but now have added to my game. But if I were to allow my ego free rein when I tell myself what a good player I am, I would soon fall behind.

Your ego will lead you to believe that you are the best, or at the least, one of the better players, at your table. But if you have taken a poker inventory and know specifically what your skills and abilities are, without stroking yourself in the process, you'll be able to make a rational judgment about how you rate in any given game. And this will keep you from getting in over your head. You won't be sitting there thinking you're the top dog when, in reality, you are the "live one."

Get your ego out of the game.

Now, I tire and require repose. Turn off that vibrating chair before you tingle yourself silly, and kill the light on your way out. ♦

Editor's note: Roy West is once again giving his successful poker lessons in Las Vegas, in person, or on the phone around the country. See his ad on page 40.



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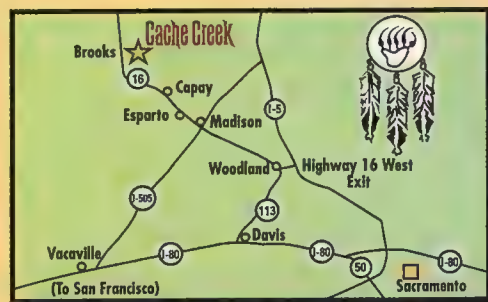
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Playing Poker Professionally

BY PHIL HELLMUTH

Being a professional poker player is not an easy thing to be. I admit that I love the hours and freedom that come with being my own boss. When things are going well in poker, there is nothing better. But, in how many other professions is it possible to lose all of your money in a single day? In how many other professions can you do everything right and still lose money? In how many other professions do you have to deal with severe ups and down financially?

One eye-opener about professional poker is the fact that some champion players who have played a long time are tired of the game. I once asked a former world champion, "If you hate poker so much, why do you continue to play?" He told me that he was locked in — because he was accustomed to the rich lifestyle that poker afforded him. Even if he wanted to quit, he said that he couldn't afford to do it. Right then and there, I decided that I didn't want to be financially tied to poker and forced to play when I didn't want to play. If you take a good look around the poker world, you will discover that very few people made it to the top limits by playing just poker. Take a look at the big pot-limit Omaha game at Bellagio. Ted Forrest and Huck Seed are two players who have made all of their money exclusively through playing poker. Lyle Berman, Jay Botchman, David Grey, Howard Lederer, Chip Reese, Doyle Brunson, and Johnny Chan are great poker players, but they all have made a lot of money in business, also. Most high-limit poker players I know have been

smart enough to generate extra income through investing and running businesses — like Bobby Baldwin, who is the president of Bellagio.

I am trying to diversify my interests right now. I am writing a book called *Poker Brat*, which is about my life. My friend Andy Glazer, author of *Casino Gambling the Smart Way*, moved to Palo Alto to help me write it. I also am starting a web site, www.philhellmuth.com, with my friend Jeff Pulver's (pulver.com) help. It will feature five different wrap-around sections, one of which will be called "Hand of the Week." I've seen many interesting hands throughout my career — some of which are very memorable. Next issue, I will begin writing a "Hand of the Week" column in *Card Player* that will be aimed at highlighting special hands for the purpose of both education and general interest. Some of these columns will feature hands from the past, while others will highlight hands that will come up in the future. I will try to give my point of view as to how the hand should have been or should be played. I am planning to put the last day of the *World Series of Poker* on Internet television at www.philhellmuth.com. We currently are in negotiations for this. At the very least, we will have a live chat session with constant updates on the action. We will talk about how players got eliminated, who has the chips, and how people are playing, and will have live interviews with the players. I'm dreaming of winning the 1999 WSOP and broadcasting it live to the Internet world on my web site.

Players, find some business that complements your poker playing. Doing this will give you options, flexibility, and another source of income. I love playing poker now, and I believe that I always will love playing poker. I'm just not sure that I will love playing poker as a full-time job all of my life. Right now, I don't enjoy the downswing that I am in. Being a champion is all about how you deal with the downswings. A champion never loses sight of where he wants to be. A champion struggles to figure out why he is going down. A champion takes advantage of a downswing to plot a higher upswing. When I am in a downswing, I see my strengths and weaknesses more clearly. I begin to worry about paying the bills. Right now, I cannot afford to play badly. Right now, I cannot afford to make mistakes. Right now, I am hungry. The really wonderful thing about being in a downswing is the growth that you achieve when you go through it. Don't misunderstand me, I hate being down. It's just that I realize my potential for growth as a person during a downswing — and I need a lot of growth! I gladly would suffer a downswing if it made me stop acting like a prima donna at the poker table. I gladly would suffer a downswing if it made me get control of my huge ego. I gladly would endure a yearlong downswing if it contributed to my winning the 1999 *World Series of Poker* — the big one.

Right now, I am in pain. It has been a very tough year for me financially. However, maybe, just maybe, I have learned to control my ego. Maybe, just maybe, I have gotten rid of my ugly prima donna behavior at the poker table. Maybe, just maybe, my book *Poker Brat* and my web site will be smash hits. Hopefully, and just maybe, I will win the 1999 *World Series of Poker*. If all of these things happen, the year of pain will have been worth it! Good luck to all of you at the poker tables. ♦

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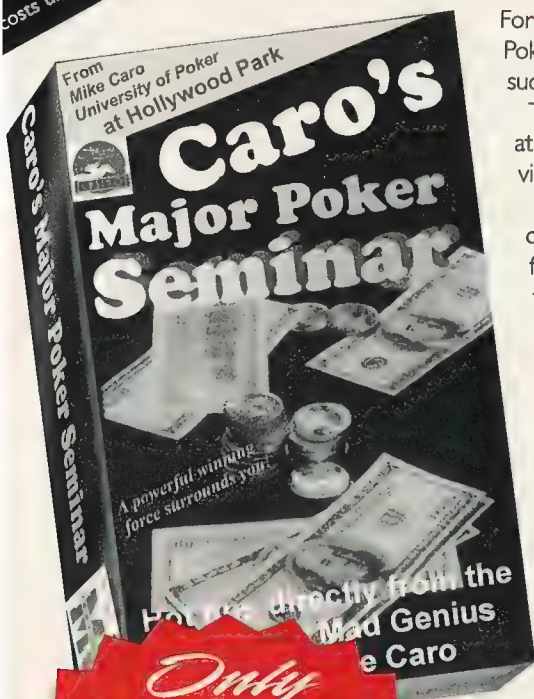
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"We're doing everything possible to create an exciting and fun venue for poker players of various skill and play levels," stated former Poker Room Manager Mike Hofreiter, who recently was promoted to casino shift manager.

"We've seen nothing but continued growth and customer interest," Hofreiter added, "and I can't say enough about our staff, whose first goal is to make each customer feel right at home."

"In fact," noted Hofreiter, "it's like an extended family here. Everyone feels welcome — regulars and newcomers alike."

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VIDEO POKER INSIGHTS

Dan Paymar

Video Poker Just for Fun — Part II

In Part I last issue, I discussed two video poker games that are available in nickel machines, and I promised an easy strategy for those games. Back in 1992, I discovered that the complete strategy for many games could be expressed in about a dozen rules with no significant loss of payback, and I published those rules for three games in my first book, *Video Poker — Precision Play*. Later, I realized that those same rules could be simplified even more with only a few tenths of 1% loss, making it very easy to cut the casino's edge to less than 1% or even gain an edge over the casino by playing video poker. Here is what you might call the "basic strategy" for Jacks-or-Better Draw Poker:

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Simplified Precision Play™ Rules for Jacks-or-Better Draw Poker

1. Never break any made pay of two pair or better, except ... Break anything but a pat straight flush for any four-card royal.
2. Break a high pair only for a four-card royal or any four-card straight flush.
3. Break a low pair only for K-Q-J-10, any three-card royal, or any four-card flush or straight flush.
4. Break a four-card flush or open-end straight draw for any three-card royal.
5. If you have both a four-flush and a four-straight, go for the flush.
6. Break A-K-Q-J only for three suited high cards.
7. Break any three of A, K, Q, and J for any two suited high cards.
8. Hold any one, two, or three high cards, except... discard the ace from A-K-Q, A-K-J, or A-Q-J.

Always follow the first rule that applies to the cards dealt. For example, if you are dealt Q♠ J♣ 10♣ Q♣ 8♣ (not necessarily in that order), you have a high pair (queens), which is a made payoff. You also have a three-card royal and a four-card inside-straight flush draw. Note that rule No. 2 says to break a high pair for any four-card straight flush, so the best play is to hold everything except the Q♠. If the other four cards were not all suited, we would hold the pair of queens (never draw to an inside straight). If the 8♣ were any lower club, we would have only a four-card flush draw instead of a straight flush draw; this would make the three-card royal better than the flush draw (rule No. 4), but still not as good as the pair of queens (rule No. 2).

Although the strategy has been simplified for this article, it will yield more than 99% payback on a full-pay machine (see Part I in the last issue for the desired payoff schedule), thus cutting a hunch player's loss rate by as much as 80%. The complete Precision Play™ rules in my book will increase the yield to more than 99.53%, cutting your loss rate in half again. Following a complete hand rank table will yield up to 99.54%, but for most people, it is not worth the effort to gain that extra 0.01%.

Some writers have rated this game at 99.6%, but the theoretical maximum with computer-perfect play is 99.5439%. As you can see, even with such simple rules, your expected payback is very close to the theoretical maximum, and much better than most other games in the casino. And there are even some games that offer more than 100% payback, giving you the opportunity to actually make a long-term profit playing video poker. The most widely available such game is Deuces Wild.

Deuces Wild offers more than 100% long-term payback, and it features the four deuces minijackpot that can be expected about once per 10 hours of play. Although there are more rules for this game, many people find this game easier to learn than Jacks-or-Better, because the strategy is broken down according to the number of deuces in the dealt hand. Here is the easy strategy:

Simplified Precision Play™ Rules for Deuces Wild Video Poker

No. of deuces	Draw to the deuces alone, except hold ...
3	wild royal flush
	five of a kind

OVER

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Mother's Day Vacation Giveaway

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\$15,000 Monumental Hold'Em Freeroll Tournament

Tuesday, May 25th at Noon, registration at 11am. Qualifying period: May 1st through May 24th at Noon.

Player must accumulate 9 stamps for Jacks Full or better, Omaha: Aces Full or better. The tournament will be limited to the first 162 qualified players. (18 tables) NOTE: Only 1 entry per customer (Non-transferable).

Double Poker Jackpots

Mondays: 12 am to 6 am and 11am to 2pm and 8pm to 11pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays: Every other hour starting at Noon and ending at Midnight. (Noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm, Midnight).

Far Out Fridays

Every Friday in May from 2pm to 10pm. High hand of the hour in poker will get you a chance to win cash and/or prizes up to \$1,000. **Omaha will no longer have separate high hands but will be included in all high hands for the Far Out Friday promotion.**

High Hand Of The Hour

Each high hand of the hour will receive \$250 on Tuesdays from 2pm to Midnight. Qualifying will start at 1pm.

\$50,000 Summer Splash X Giveaway

\$50,000 will go on Sunday, May 23rd. Qualifying period is Monday, May 1st until the last drawing on Monday, May 24th at 1am (25,000 in "21" and \$25,000 in poker)

Every full house in poker will receive a ticket for hourly \$1,000 drawings. Must be present to win.

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- 2 any four of a kind or better made pay
any four-card royal, or any suited connectors 6-7 or higher (that is, any fully open-end straight flush draw)
- 1 any made pay, except always draw to any four-card royal flush or fully open-end four-card straight flush
any four-card straight flush (including inside draws)
any three-card royal flush (except ace high)
any two suited connectors 6-7 or higher
- 0 any made pay, except always draw to a four-card royal flush
any four-card straight flush (including an inside draw)
any three-card royal flush
one pair (discard a second pair)
any four-card flush or fully open-end four-card straight
any three-card straight flush (including all inside draws)
Q-J, Q-10, or J-10 suited
any four-card inside straight (except A-3-4-5)

Of course, you should never discard a deuce. This includes holding a one-deuce wild royal rather than drawing one card for the natural royal flush. If you don't have any of the combinations shown, you must redraw all five cards. (The most common error in playing Deuces Wild is holding too many cards. Just remember that every card held means one less chance of catching a deuce.)

Although the strategy has been simplified for this article, it will yield more than 100.6% payback on a full-pay machine (that is, a game with the payoff table shown in Part I of this article in the last issue). The complete Precision Play rules in my book will

increase this to 100.75%. That may not sound like much difference, but note that it's a 25% increase in your expected win rate, and it's very close to the theoretical maximum of 100.762%.

Always hold the card combination matching the higher entry in the rules. For example, if you are dealt 2♠ Q♣ 6♠ 2♦ 7♣, look under the two deuce rules. You have a made flush, but with two deuces, that's such a poor hand that it's not even listed! The best play is to hold everything except the queen, giving you a fully open-end straight flush draw. If the seven had been an eight (leaving a gap between the eight and six), if the six and seven weren't suited, or if it were 5-6 or lower instead of 6-7 or higher, you should hold only the deuces.

Where to find them: It doesn't do much good to learn the strategy if you can't find any good games. Here's where to find good nickel video poker in the Las Vegas area:

- **Fiesta** (Rancho Road at Lake Mead in North Las Vegas) has a few full-pay nickel Jacks-or-Better machines. They also had seven full-pay nickel Deuces Wild machines; they are temporarily out of service due to construction, but are expected to return.

- **Plaza** (Downtown Las Vegas) has a dozen full-pay "Draw Poker" machines near the main cage and 14 more at the far north end of the casino (beyond the registration desk). These machines also pay 4,700 coins (\$235) for a royal flush, raising the payback to 99.85%. There also is a bank of 10-coin nickel progressives near the sportsbook bar (not recommended unless the jackpot is over \$1,400, because of the 7/5 payoff schedule).

- **Skyline** (Boulder Highway at Sunset Road in Henderson) has lots of full-pay nickel Deuces Wild machines, plus some 10-coin machines.

- **The Reserve** (Lake Mead Boulevard just off I-15 in Henderson) has a bank of six full-pay nickel Deuces Wild machines.

Circus Circus still may have a bank of nickel "Aces & Eights" machines just outside the pizza restaurant. They are 8/5 machines, but the quads bonuses and the 0.5% cash rebate from the slot club make them quite attractive. Full-pay machines are much more important than a slot club, especially on nickel play, since your action will not result in much rebate anyway. The full-pay Deuces Wild machines at the listed casinos offer the best nickel play I know of anywhere in the world.

Since there are so few full-pay nickel machines around, it may be difficult to get on a good one in the evening or on weekends. Try weekdays and early morning hours. Unfortunately, I have not received any reports of full-pay nickel machines anywhere outside of the Las Vegas area.

This information will get you started toward winning at video poker. The next step is to read my 199-page book, *Video Poker — Optimum Play*, which provides more detailed strategies, plus other games, along with lots of related information. Mention this article and save the shipping and handling charges. Make your check or money order for \$19.95 payable to Dan Paymar, 2540 S. Maryland Pkwy., Suite 141, Las Vegas, NV 89109. I also have highly optimized, laminated, shirt pocket-size cue cards (hand rank tables) for 16 of the most attractive games. For more information, write to the same address or visit my web site at www.vegasplayer.com/video-poker.html. ♦

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Thomas Honkawa

The recently concluded 13-event *Spring Challenge* at Crystal Park Hotel and Casino in Compton, California, attracted 2,669 entrants and paid out \$460,400 in prize money.

Congratulations to all of the winners and to the entire Crystal Park Casino staff for hosting a very successful *Spring Challenge* event. Results were as follows:

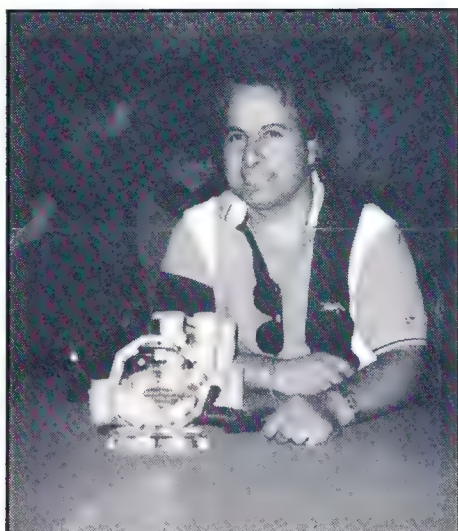
\$100 limit hold'em

Entrants: 368 • Prize pool: \$36,800

1. Thomas Honkawa \$13,240
2. Dou Tran 6,990
3. David Cai 3,680



Michael McCoy



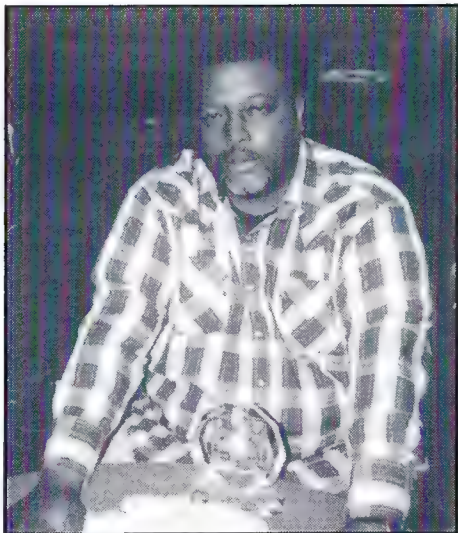
Mo Fathipour

4. Tom Le 2,205
5. John Juanda 1,470
6. Sirous Baghchehsarael 1,285
7. Hung Pham 1,100
8. Michael Park 920
9. Amnon Golan 735

\$100 no-limit hold'em

Entrants: 245 • Prize pool: \$24,500

1. Mo Fathipour \$9,555
2. Robert Hommel 4,900
3. Eddie Napolitano 2,450
4. Tom McEvoy 1,470
5. David Levi 1,100
6. Charlie Satoot 855



Danny Morgan



Eskimo Clark

7. Ruy Heim 735
8. Woody Kobroob 610
9. Beverly Kruskol 490

\$100 Omaha high-low split

Entrants: 195 • Prize pool: \$19,500

1. Eskimo Clark \$7,605
2. Andy Divale 3,900
3. Paul Honas 1,950
4. Bill Sheppard 1,175
5. Tommy Pena 875
6. Tom Le 685
7. Robert Nasser 585
8. Alex Dedovssis 485
9. Paul Williams 390



Nino Pigato



Hoang Ta

\$100 seven-card stud

Entrants: 152 • Prize pool: \$15,200

1. Michael McCoy \$6,075
2. An Tong 3,035
3. Al Barbieri 1,520
4. Noah Jefferson 910
5. Irv Warsaw 760
6. Sergey Khromov 605
7. Darrel Frink 455
8. An Tran 380

\$200 limit hold'em

Entrants: 252 • Prize pool: \$50,400

1. Danny Morgan \$17,600
2. Wayne Chang 9,290
3. Thong Phong 4,890
4. Tho Ngo 2,930
5. Ersul Sanders 1,955
6. Abraham Yomtob 1,710
7. Hossein Swahrezay 1,465
8. Tom Luckhart 1,225
9. Van Nguyen 980

\$100 limit lowball

Entrants: 98 • Rebuys: 67

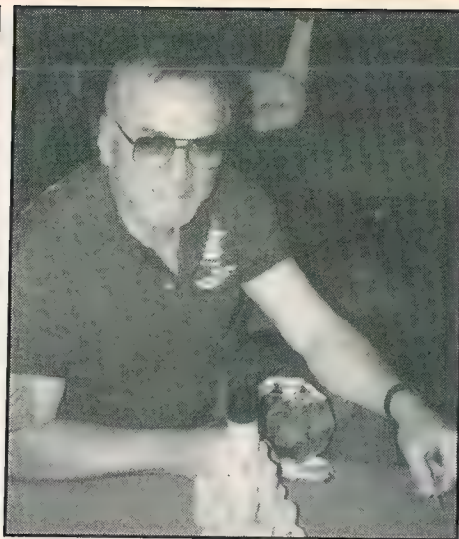
Prize pool: \$16,500

1. Nino Pigato \$6,100
2. Andreas Foulas 3,430
3. Joseph Elrod 1,880
4. Bruce Coons 1,320
5. Wayne Gulliver 990
6. Teka Summers 825
7. Scotty Warbuck 660

\$200 seven-card stud high-low split

Entrants: 128 • Prize pool: \$25,600

- Hoang Ta \$10,240
- Phillip Luong 5,120
- Charles Shoten 2,560
- Mike Grout 1,535
- Lance Brukman 1,280



Mario Esquerro

6. Mike Sales 1,020
7. Wayland Young 765
8. Randy Holland 640

\$200 limit hold'em

Entrants: 211 • Prize pool: \$42,200

1. Mario Esquerro \$16,450
2. Hossein Shahrezay 8,440
3. Harvey Goldson 4,220
4. Scott Nguyen 2,530
5. Suzie Thompson 1,900
6. Sirous Baghchehsaraie 1,475

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Bob Hommel

7. Danny Newman 1,265
8. Greg Hopkins 1,055
9. Charlie Satoot 840

\$200 no-limit hold'em

Entrants: 144 • Rebuys: 74

Prize pool: \$43,600

1. Bob Hommel \$17,000
2. Toto Leonidas 8,715
3. Men Nguyen 4,355
4. Ken Goldstein 2,610
5. Roy Ritner 1,960
6. Roger Ledford 1,525
7. David Levi 1,305
8. Mike Morrison 1,090
9. Art Aroyan 870

\$200 Omaha high-low split

Entrants: 119

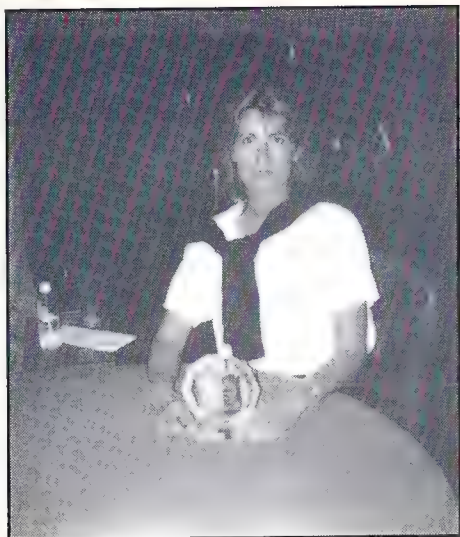
Prize pool: \$25,000 (guaranteed)

1. Kathy Kolberg \$9,755
2. John Pham 5,000
3. Spring Cheong 2,500
4. Earl Kim 1,500
5. Zorn Venture 1,125
6. David Cai 875
7. Keith Morris 750
8. Omar Campolongo 625
9. Bill Shepperd 500

\$200 limit hold'em

Entrants: 259 • Prize pool: \$51,800

1. Greg Hopkins \$18,100
2. Tom Honkawa 9,560
3. Moshe Yona 5,035
4. Anthony Tran 3,015
5. Cynthia Luong 2,010
6. Anton Ulker 1,760
7. Binh Do 1,505
8. Jan Somchub 1,260
9. Phillip Luong 1,010



Kathy Kolberg

\$200 no-limit hold'em championship
Entrants: 249 • Rebuys: 143 • Prize
pool: \$78,400 plus \$1,500 TOC and
\$10,000 WSOP buy-ins

1. David Cossio \$23,835
 + TOC and WSOP buy-ins
2. Nick Wertz 16,145
3. Alberto Hugo 7,690
4. Asher Derei 4,610
5. Dale Reeves 3,845



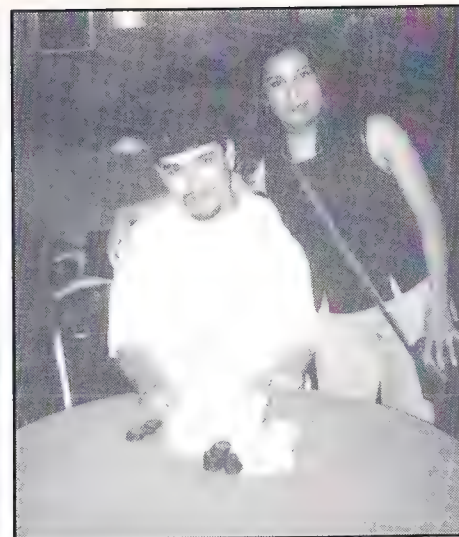
Greg Hopkins

6. Hai D. Tran 3,080
7. Mohamed Ibrahim 2,690
8. Jay Reisler 2,305
9. Tom Honkawa 1,535

\$100 WSOP limit hold'em
supersatellite

Entrants: 169 • Rebuys: 140 • Prize
pool: \$30,900 (\$14,130 in WSOP
buy-ins/\$16,770 cash)

The final nine finishers received \$1,863



David Cossio

plus a \$1,570 *World Series of Poker* buy-in. They were Jan Somchub, Jonny Le, Binh Do, Jerry Bremonte, Mohamed Ibrahim, Florencio Umel, Steve Kaiser, George McDonough, and Hae Cheon.



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Cappelletti in Vancouver

From my 14th-floor hotel window amidst a dense skyline of seemingly intertwined modern buildings, I gazed out at a picturesque scene of ships and boats in the harbor framed by distant black mountains across the sound. They say that it rains a lot in Vancouver, but the weather had been ideal during those late March days as Vancouver, with all of its flowers, entered spring.

I was attending the *Spring National Contract Bridge Tournament* at the Pan Pacific Hotel/Convention Center. As usual, whenever the host city has a plethora of nearby casino facilities available, a multitude of bridge players, each night after the evening bridge sessions, descends upon the local casinos for several hours of late relaxation.

Several blocks from the Pan Pacific, along streets lined with tulip pots reminiscent of Holland, we entered a medium-size casino below the Renaissance Hotel. There were several blackjack and roulette tables in the main room. Off to the right there was a poker room with four games in progress — one \$5-\$10 (Canadian dollars) seven-card stud and three \$4-\$8 hold'em — all backlisted with three or four players waiting.

The first seat available was at the \$5-\$10 seven-card stud table. I quickly noted that five or six players on average were calling the mandatory \$2 bring-in (everyone anted \$1). I whispered to my kibitzer/student that in this sort of very loose seven-card stud game, I would expect to average about \$30 an hour. I played about one in four starting hands (most pairs, three of the same suit, and occasionally three high cards). I was up about \$50 when a hold'em seat became

available.

The \$4-\$8 hold'em game was of the "no-fold'em" variety. At least five or six callers saw every flop. One player — fortunately, at my right — raised before the flop approximately every other hand. My kibitzer asked what the expected hourly win was in a game such as this. I answered that it was not as much as one might think — probably about two to three big bets per hour. To maximize your expected winnings, you must understand when to lower your usual standards. And it takes more than good mathematics to win big.

After folding about 10 hands before the flop, I picked up an A-J offsuit in middle position after two players called. Since I had been completely inactive, I thought it was time to "come to life." So, I raised before the flop to see if I could weed out some of the players in back of me. Wonder of wonders, everyone in back of me folded, including the little blind (he was the first blind to fold since my arrival at the table). The big blind defended and the two callers called — four-way action.

The flop came J-6-3 with two hearts. There was a check, a bet, and a call to me. I made what I consider to be an automatic raise. The big blind folded and both callers called. The fourth boardcard was the 9♥; thus, the board now had three hearts. It was checked to me. I felt committed to bet and not give a free card. I bet, the first player check-raised, and the next player folded. I was not happy with this situation. He might well have led with a four-flush and now had hit.

In a bigger game against a solid player, I might well have folded. However, this particular player had been doing a lot of bet-

ting on previous hands, so I decided to stick around and perhaps pay him off. The last card was the 10♦. He bet out. If he didn't have me beat before, that 10 might have hit him. With a J-10-9 on the board, there were very few legitimate hands that I could beat, but I decided to see it through and fished in. Fortunately for me, he laid down a 10-8. His tens lost to my jacks. He had bet the flop on air and had turned a two-way straight draw. As I scooped in the pot, my kibitzer whispered, "Muzzletough." It's right to fish in if it wins.

A good example of the importance of using good technique in a loose game came after my (slightly questionable?) midtable call with 10♠ 7♠. The button raised and five players saw the flop hit with 10♦ 6♦ 5♠. There was a bet and a call to me. Once again, I made what I consider to be an automatic raise with top pair. The next player called cold. Only the button/before-the-flop raiser folded. The turn card was the 2♠, giving me a flush draw. It was checked to me, so I bet again. All three opponents called again. The last card was the disastrous A♦ (there now were three diamonds on board), and one of the three probably had an ace. I probably would have folded if anyone had bet.

Lo and behold, it was checked around and my tens won. The first player had pocket nines; the second had a 6-4 suited, and the player on my left cold-called with a 7-5 offsuit. The before-the-flop raiser was slapping himself for folding with an A-X, which would have won. It's good that I raised after the flop — which might well be the best overall tactical weapon in a loose game. But you should not do it so often that you become predictable. ♦



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Nov 6 Saturday	Limit Hold'em	\$100+\$20	Limit Hold'em	\$100+\$20*
Nov 7 Sunday	Omaha Hi-Lo	\$200+\$30	Omaha Hi-Lo	\$100+\$20*
Nov 8 Monday	No Limit Hold'em	\$200+\$30	No Limit Hold'em	\$100+\$20*
Nov 9 Tuesday	Limit Hold'em	\$200+\$30	Limit Hold'em	\$100+\$20*
Nov 10 Wednesday	Omaha High	\$200+\$30	Omaha High	\$100+\$20*
Nov 11 Thursday	No-Limit Hold'em	\$200+\$30	No Limit Hold'em	\$100+\$20*
Nov 12 Friday	7-Card Stud	\$200+\$30	7-Card Stud	\$100+\$20*
Nov 13 Saturday	Limit Hold'em	\$300+\$30	Limit Hold'em	\$100+\$20*
Nov 14 Sunday	Omaha Hi-Lo	\$300+\$30	Omaha Hi-Lo	\$100+\$20*
Nov 15 Monday	No-Limit Hold'em	\$500+\$40	*One Opt. Re-buy	

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ODDS AND ENDS

By DUNCAN MCCORNOCK

Flush Expectations

This column illustrates the reasons for the conventional wisdom of playing suited hands with at least one high card or suited hands with cards close enough together to make a straight, and for not playing suited hands with low cards that aren't close enough together to participate in the same straight. The column will show that flushes are not made very often, and that competing flushes frequently can occur. I will not discuss the losses that flushes sustain to full houses, fours of a kind, or straight flushes.

In hold'em, the chances of starting with two suited cards as our downcards are exactly 12 out of 51; hence, four out of 17 of your hands will be suited. Of course, in a given session, a larger or smaller proportion of your hands actually may turn out to be suited, but in the long run, four-sevenths of your hands will be suited. Should you play them all?

The flow of a hold'em hand is depicted below. As shown, at the start of a hand, the blind bets are made and then the "pockets" are dealt to the players. Following the initial round of betting, the three cards comprising the "flop" are turned over onto the board. The flop is followed by another round of betting, after which one card called the "turn" is added to the board. A round of betting follows the turn, after which the last card called the "river" is added to the board. A final round of betting ensues, the showdown occurs, and the dealer awards the pot to the best hand. Of course, the hand can be cut short on any betting round if all but one player fold, in which case, the pot is immediately pushed to the sole remaining player.

Start	End
Deal → Pocket → Flop → Turn → River → Deal	

Given that our pocket is suited, what can we expect after the flop, after the turn, and after the river with regard to getting a flush in our suit?

The chart below shows the chances of the flop, turn, and river cards contributing to the possibility of achieving a flush in our suit. The numbers to the left of an arrow represent the percentage of the times that the flop cards, the turn card, or the river card will take us from the state represented by the source box to the state represented by the destination box. The boxes with numbers in them represent the number of cards in our suit on the board. As shown for the flop cards, nearly half the time (46.6%), the flop will have none of our suit; another 41.5% of the time, the flop will have only one of our suit. Approximately 11% of the time, or one time in nine flops, will the flop have exactly two of our suit. Less than one time in 100 will we flop a flush.

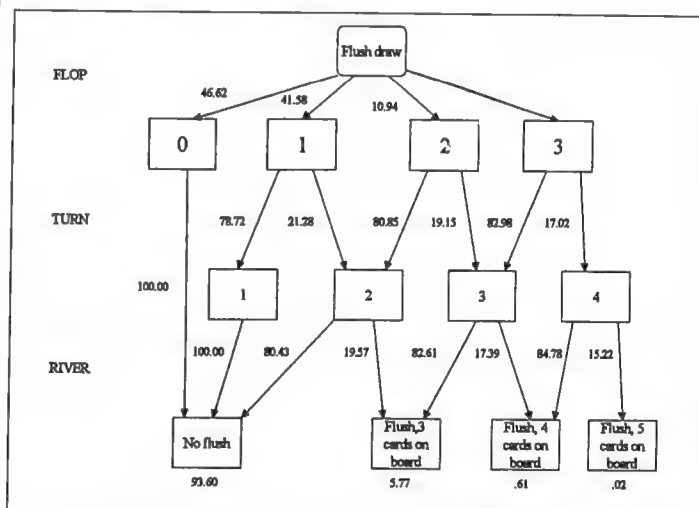
Note that if the flop has zero of our suit, 100% of the time, we will not have a flush. This is represented by the arrow directly from the box with "0" in it to the box indicating "No flush."

If we flop only one of our suit, approximately one in 25 times, will we get "runner-runner" in our suit to complete the flush.

The percentages under the boxes at the river represent the frequency that the result will occur if the hand is played to the river.

If we flop a four-flush, approximately 35% of the time, we will complete the flush by the river; 10% of those completions will have a pesky fourth card of our suit on the board.

Flopping a flush happens less than one in 100 times, but when it happens, three out of 10 times, there will be one or more additional boardcards in the suit by the river.



So, what's the meaning of all of this? Remember, we are talking only of playing limit hold'em.

First, flopping a flush draw occurs only about 11% of the time that we see a flop with a suited hand. From there, we get a flush only 35% of the time, with a pesky fourth of the suit 3.33% of the time, or almost 10% of our flushes. For the times that the board has exactly three of our suit on the river, we must worry about the times that another hand was dealt that was also suited in our suit. As a percentage, this occurs approximately 2.8% times the number of other hands dealt. This number is about 20% for seven other hands — that is, in an eighthanded game. If we are playing low cards, like 9-2 suited, the likelihood that another suited hand has a higher card is large.

Continued on page 108

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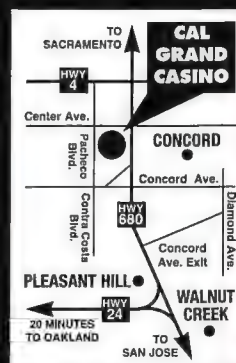
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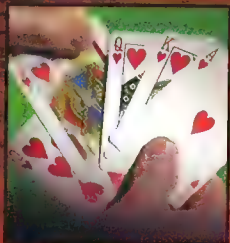
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Riverboat Report

By Ron Koziol

This is truly the time of the year for riverboat gambling in the Midwest. With the cold winter months only a memory, riverboat gambling enthusiasts are now ready to make regular summertime visits to a nearby lake or river to play their favorite games and maybe even to enjoy a cruise. That's not to say that the winter weather kept too many gamblers away from the riverboats.

Since the advent of modern-day riverboat gambling eight years ago, the popularity of the floating casinos has increased each year. Now, there are 52 riverboat casinos in four Midwestern states and Louisiana that attracted more than 100 million gamblers last year. All indications are that that figure will be surpassed this year as the casinos continue to add hotels and other amenities.

Among the new features at riverboat sites in Illinois from the start of this summer are RV parks in East St. Louis and Joliet. The Casino Queen's site in East St. Louis has an excellent view of the Gateway Arch across the Mississippi River in St. Louis. An RV hookup at \$22.98 per night includes cable TV and the Internet, 24-hour security, a hot breakfast for two at the Queen's Courtyard buffet, and

admission to the casino.

The Empress Casino in Joliet, Illinois, will be welcoming RV guests for the second year this spring and summer. The \$18 a night Oasis RV Park was a popular spot for travelers last year. It consists of 80 spaces with city water, electric, and cable TV hookups. Guests also can use the

Aurora, isn't planning live poker anywhere else in the near future, according to the latest word from the state gaming board. Of course, all of that could change if the state Legislature changes the law this year and allows the casinos to have more than a total of 1,200 gaming positions.

from Showboat to Harrah's in late March. A new VIP lounge and high-limit slot room with food service were opened, along with bigger meeting and entertainment rooms. The casino has had one of the largest poker rooms in the Midwest with 13 tables. Harrah's also is investing \$30 million in improvements in its East Chicago pavilion, including the addition of three new restaurants. It's the second Chicago-area location for Harrah's, which has operated two gambling boats in Joliet, Illinois, since May 4, 1993.

Southeastern Indiana isn't doing too badly as far as poker is concerned.

Caesars' Glory of Rome in Bridgeport has six tables, and the Grand Victoria

Casino in Rising Sun has eight tables that spread seven-card stud, hold'em, and Omaha. The room is open from Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m.; on Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 a.m., and on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 a.m.

Caesars' gambling boat, which opened last November, officially has been proclaimed the world's largest gaming vessel by the *Guinness Book of Records*. After a slow start, Caesars' is becoming a major draw in the Louisville, Kentucky, area. The boat attracted 389,000 gamblers in February who lost \$13.1 million. But the big winner among Indiana casinos continues to be Argosy on the Ohio River, which had a casino win of \$23.9 million. The boat attracted 598,000 gamblers in February and is on pace to break its record total of 6.6 million visitors last year, which once again would make it the most popular riverboat in

pool and Jacuzzi at the nearby Empress Hotel, as well as shuttle service to the front door of the casino complex.

It doesn't appear that any new poker rooms will be added this year or. Midwestern riverboats. In fact, this past year saw the closing of three poker rooms in Missouri at Argosy's in Riverside, at Harrah's in Maryland Heights outside of St. Louis, and at Harrah's in Kansas City. The \$500 betting limit in Missouri for each cruise continues to hamper games like poker.

Illinois, which has nine riverboats but only two poker rooms on boats in Joliet and

For the present time, Northwestern Indiana remains the hotbed for poker players in the Chicago area at the new Harrah's (formerly the Showboat) in East Chicago, the Majestic Star in Gary, and the Empress in Hammond. A multimillion dollar face-lift at the Empress Hammond pavilion should be ready by early summer. The renovation includes a larger gift shop, an expanded buffet, a bigger deli, and a bar and lounge. The poker room has 10 tables and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 a.m. seven days a week.

A series of celebrations marked the official changeover



America.

Riverboat casinos in Kansas City could be facing some competition from their next-door neighbors in Kansas if proposed legislation allowing slots and video poker at racetracks gets approval from lawmakers. However, the plan still requires passage by voters in counties that have the tracks, including The Woodlands in Kansas City, Kansas. Racetracks in or near riverboat gambling states have suffered financially over the years, and a few, like Arlington Park near Chicago, were forced to close. However, Iowa's three dog tracks weathered the casino storm by getting the state to allow slots and video poker machines. Slot casinos at Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Bluffs Run in Council Bluffs,

and the Dubuque Greyhound Park attracted 621,000 gamblers in February. Revenues for the month topped \$22 million, with Council Bluffs the big winner at \$11.4 million from its 1,164 slots.

Just in time for summer, The Par-A-Dice in East Peoria, Illinois, has completed a \$4.5 million renovation of its riverboat and adjoining pavilion. New carpeting, wall covering, and lighting were installed throughout the four levels of the casino boat. The exterior of the pavilion also was remodeled to match the casino's 208-room hotel. The Par-A-Dice was purchased by the Boyd Gaming Corp. of Las Vegas in December 1996. For the first two months of the year, the boat drew 640,000 gamblers.



Atlantic City Scene

BY ALAN H. SLESS

Atlantic City casinos put another \$250 million into their properties last year and now have an aggregate investment of \$6.9 billion, according to year-end figures released by the Casino Control Commission. Trump Taj Mahal has the highest investment at just over \$1 billion, while the Claridge has the lowest at \$39.6 million. Caesars had the biggest increase, spending \$88.6 million toward its \$280 million expansion and renovation.

Hilton and Caesars, taking advantage of big high-roller losses, helped increase the local industry's gross gambling revenue by 2.5 percent. Atlantic City casinos posted a 2.5 percent increase over March of 1998, winning \$335.5 million. Trump Taj Mahal led with \$41.7 million. Leading in percentage increase were the Hilton (34.2 percent) and Caesars (20.6 percent).

The opening of the \$268 million New Atlantic City Convention Center in May 1997 is substantially increasing Atlantic City's convention and trade show capabilities, and is greatly enhancing the resort's prominence and competitiveness throughout the convention industry nationwide.

The facility, described by the Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority (ACC&VA) as "America's New Northeast

Business Address," contains 500,000 contiguous square feet of exhibit space — more exhibit space on one floor than any convention center from Atlanta to Boston. The convention center also features state-of-the-art voice, video, and data communications technology, surpassing any other convention center in the United States, and enabling the instantaneous transfer of information across the building, across the nation, or across the world.

The interest in this building is tremendous. Having all of that exhibit space on one floor is extremely functional for convention and trade show planners, and the facility's communications technology is unmatched anywhere.

Trump Taj Mahal ... The poker room at the Taj Mahal was rated first by *Atlantic City Magazine Survey*. The room has a solid reputation for its quality and quantity of games, with betting limits to suit beginners and seasoned veterans alike. The players also love the occasional free hot dogs and pretzels. Congratulations to Tom Gitto, the VP in charge.

Attention, all bikers! A piece of Hog Heaven is coming to Trump Taj Mahal. The casino's rapidly growing promenade of brand-name retail shops soon will be home to a 2,000-square-foot Harley-Davidson merchandise store.

Tropicana ... Another successful Trop Club championship was held in March. The game was seven-card stud and the results were as follows:

1. Hal Becker \$1,000
 2. Leo Paul 800
 3. Charles Weinpel 700
 4. Max Greenberg 500
 5. Rebecca Duer 400
- Dee Lee Promotions, in

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association with the Tropicana Casino and Resort, held the first pugilistic event in the Tropicana's new Broadway-style showroom. It featured both men and women in a nine-bout card. Diane Lee Fischer, owner of Dee Lee Promotions, recently was recognized as "Promoter of the Year" by the *Press of Atlantic City* newspaper. Fischer has garnered a national reputation for her all-female boxing cards at the Tropicana.

Trump Plaza ... has launched into cyberspace with its new address: www.trumpplaza.com. This new site on the World Wide Web will assist guests in getting the latest information and special offers from Trump Plaza, including room rates and packages, spa and salon services and discounts, casino and slot news, and more. A Trump Card application can be found on-line. Those who register in the guest book could win an overnight stay in one of Trump Plaza's suites, along with two tickets to an upcoming Trump Plaza show.

Caesars ... will celebrate its 20th anniversary in Atlantic City on June 26. Stay tuned for further information.

Bally's Park Place ... recently debuted its new "Monopoly-themed slot machines." With the ultimate Monopoly address of Park Place and The Boardwalk, it was only appropriate that Bally's Park Place be chosen as the place to debut WMS Gaming's new Monopoly-themed slot machines. Bally's features Roll & Win and Reel state, two of the four Monopoly-themed slot machines developed by WMS Gaming Inc.

This past January, the

Monopoly-themed slot machines were named the "most innovative gaming product of 1999" at the American Gaming, Lodging, and Leisure Summit in Las Vegas.

A New York City man received a very special Easter present on Easter Sunday when he won more than \$2 million on an IGT *Wheel of Fortune* progressive slot machine. The winner, who is a Manhattan resident and a bus driver on a midtown route for New York Transit, had played for about 10 minutes and had invested less than \$50 before hitting the \$2,045,316 jackpot.

Casinos with heart, and more ... Pam Popielarski — president and general manager of Tropicana Casino and Resort, as well as president of the 200 Club of Cape May and Atlantic counties — hosted the 200 Club's eighth annual Valor and Scholarship Awards luncheon recently at the Tropicana.

The 200 Club honors those who are in the field of public safety, including police, fire, and rescue personnel. The 200 Club remembers and supports survivors.

Mr. Al's Best Buys

- Caesars' Pick 7 promotion gives new Emperor's Club members a chance to win \$100,000 instantly when they sign up for an Emperor's Club card.

- Bally's Park Place and Wild Wild West Casino at Bally's Park Place MVP card holders can play in the casinos' MVP Triple Play \$200,000 Cash Giveaway promotion through June 18.

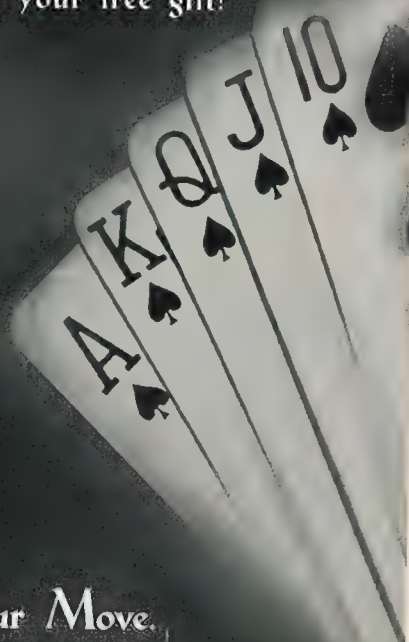
- A complimentary shuttle service, Trump Express, began servicing Trump customers last July. The shuttle transports

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- Check free newspapers, *Whoot* and *At the Shore*, for two-for-one offers at some of the casinos.



Arizona News

Casino Arizona at Salt River ... There now are two Casino Arizona at Salt River locations. The newest, off the 101 Freeway at Indian Bend Road in Scottsdale, recently opened with a players party. The cardroom has 36 tables that spread Omaha, hold'em, and stud, as well as a high-limit section and a six-table Players Pit. The casino also contains 332 slots.

The cardroom at the 101 and Indian Bend location features a full tournament schedule Monday through Friday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. These tournaments feature a \$25 buy-in and \$2,000 added prize money. Also, \$10,000 add-on hold'em tournaments are held the second Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Results of the most recent tournament were as follows:

1. William Lall \$18,400
2. John Parge 9,200
3. Maurice Sova 4,400
4. Ricky Lee Sampson . 2,916
5. Carl Eavin 2,404

6. Patrick McClure 1,950
7. Thomas Tripp 1,650
8. Celvia Hawkins 1,250
9. Mike Krescanko 970

The next two \$10,000 add-on hold'em tournaments will be held on May 8 and June 12.

During the Independence Day weekend (July 3-5), a three-day tournament featuring stud and hold'em will be held. Each day will offer a \$10,000 add-on tournament with a \$110 buy-in.

Each tournament's winner will qualify for the *Tournament of Champions*, with Casino Arizona at Salt River picking up the cost of the player's entry fee and accommodations.

Throughout the month of May at the 101 and Indian Bend location, a *Beat the Boss* promotion is being held. The finale of this promotion will feature a *Sad Sack* tournament on Monday, May 31 at 9 a.m. Additionally, a car will be given away on this day. Progressive cash drawings are continuing through July.

The Casino Arizona at Salt River location at the 101 Freeway and McKellips features a newly remodeled casino with 368 slots, a cardroom with 10 poker tables, and a five-table Players Pit.

Every Monday at noon and 7 p.m., the 101 and McKellips casino features \$500 add-on player vs. player 21 tournaments in the Players Pit. Every Tuesday, poker players are eligible for \$4,500 in "Must Go" jackpots all day. Every Wednesday, poker players are eligible for hourly progressive cash drawings. Thursdays feature the \$250 *Gold Chip* promotion. Additionally, players are eligible to enter the *Monthly Car Giveaway*. In

April, two \$50,000 1999 Plymouth Prowlers were given away — one at each casino. The next car giveaway at the McKellips casino is scheduled for May 31. At least one car is given to players every month.

Both Casino Arizona at Salt River locations feature a full-service bar and lounge, 24-hour tableside food service, free valet parking and shuttle service, live entertainment on weekends, and special player room rates at nearby resorts and hotels.

Apache Gold Casino ... Qualifying hold'em tournaments for the *Tournament of Champions* will be held on May 16 and June 27 at 11 a.m. The buy-in is \$75 with one \$25 rebuy. The winner of each of these tournaments will be awarded a seat in the TOC in Las Vegas July 26-28, room accommodations for three nights at The Orleans Hotel and Casino, round-trip airfare from Phoenix to Las Vegas, an Apache Gold hat and jacket, and \$500 spending cash. Cash prizes will be awarded through 10th place. Seating is limited, so reserve your seat now.

Currently, players who sink a putt on the new indoor putting green win prizes. Players also can enter the drawing for a one-year golf pass at the new Apache Stronghold Golf Club. The drawing will be held on June 25. A free "Swing Card" and entry blank are available throughout the casino.

The new Apache Stronghold Golf Club recently opened, and golf "stay and play" packages are currently available that include a resort room in the newest wing of the Apache Gold Best Western Hotel.

Apache Gold Casino is

located five miles east of Globe, Arizona, on Highway 70.

Desert Diamond Casino

... The May Millenium Celebration Package Give-away currently is under way. This vacation package, valued at more than \$3,500, includes four nights' hotel accommodations for two at the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas for New Year's Eve 2000 (Dec. 29, 1999-Jan. 1, 2000), a Card Club promotional package, and \$1,000 spending cash.

Players qualify for the giveaway with any full house or better in stud and hold'em, and eights full or better in Omaha. Double bonus hours (two entry forms) are 3 a.m.-11 a.m. and 4 p.m.-7 p.m., plus all day from Friday, May 28 to Monday, May 31. The drawing will be held on Monday, May 31 at 10 p.m.

A *Tournament of Champions* qualifying event will be held on May 13 at 7 p.m. The winner will receive entry to the TOC.



California Ramblings

Ocean's Eleven Casino

... recently hosted its first annual *Chips Ahoy* poker tournament. The first event was limit hold'em, which paid out \$8,425 in prize money. The buy-in was \$125 and there was a \$25 bounty on each of the 82 entrants.

Results were as follows:

1. Mallie Hoyer \$3,201
2. David Icke 1,601
3. Sandy Hale 842



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7. Glenn Abney 421
8. Dan Ritter 338
9. Bob Coates 253



Mallie Hoyer

The second event was a tag-team tournament — half limit hold'em and half Omaha high-low split. The prize pool was \$10,700. A total of 56 teams entered the \$50 buy-in (per person) event, and there were 102 rebuys. Results were as

follows:



Travis West (left) and Denny Pretz

1. Denny Pretz & Travis West \$4,066
2. Skip Elliott & Julie Elliott 2,033
3. Ahmad Areikat & Mahari Gebre 1,070
4. Moira Stanzick & Pam Moss 856
5. Bonnie Smith & Harold Smith 749
6. Norm Jones & Patty Gallagher 642



On hand for the recent Mike Caro University on Tour Seminar at Ocean's Eleven Casino were (left to right) Ocean's Eleven Casino General Manager Bob Moyer, Mike Caro, Rod Peate, Phyllis Caro, Floor Supervisor Suzanne Carter, Shift Supervisor Chuck McCormick, and Card Player Publisher Linda Johnson.

7. Chris Kevlahan & Jordan Bendt 535
8. Barbara O'Malley & Bill O'Malley 428
9. Bruce Kirby & Ron Weaver 321

All entrants were served a complimentary buffet at each of the events and were given a free theme T-shirt. First-place winners received an Ocean's Eleven Casino logo watch and trophy.

Ocean's Eleven Casino also hosted the Mike Caro University on Tour Seminar, which was very well attended. Mike Caro, Linda Johnson, and Rod Peate conducted seminars for attendees, and Cowboy Wolford appeared as a special guest speaker.

The second Pananza pan tournament will be held May 15-16. It will be limited to the first 96 entrants and will guarantee \$9,600 in prize money. The high hand and the high score each day will receive \$100. The buy-in will be \$150. The tournament will feature 32 hands per day (quarter kondition) and players will receive \$25 in chips every day. The tournament will start at 2 p.m. each day. A complimentary

dinner buffet will be served each evening and a complimentary brunch buffet will be served on Sunday. On Friday, May 14, a complimentary hors d'oeuvres buffet will be served from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to all "open" players.

The regular weekly 21st Century Blackjack tournaments have been changed from Saturdays to Sundays at 3 p.m. The buy-in is \$15 (plus a \$3 entry fee) and there is a guaranteed prize pool of \$1,000. The prize structure is: First place — 50 percent, second place — 30 percent, third place — 15 percent, and fourth place — 5 percent.

Fantasy Springs Casino

... Dealer Chris Boggs was the top winner of the Indio, California, casino's recent employee Texas hold'em



Chris Boggs

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tournament, which awarded him a \$1,500 entry into the *Tournament of Champions* in July at The Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Runners-up in the tournament received an entry into one of the Fantasy Spring's *Hold'em Olympics* tournaments that recently concluded. Phil Reed, a part-time casino employee, placed second and won entry into the *Hold'em Olympics* \$10,000 event. Dealer Marvin Weber won

third place and entry into the *Hold'em Olympics* \$7,000 event. David Campbell, also a Fantasy Springs dealer, captured fourth place and entry into the *Hold'em Olympics* \$5,000 event.

A total of 35 Fantasy Springs employees participated in the tournament, and Chuck Humphrey acted as guest dealer for the event. Each of the top four winners also received Fantasy Springs Casino jackets.

Controlling Interest in Bicycle Club Casino Acquired by Ocean's Eleven Casino Owners

The three principals of International Casino Management Inc., Haig Kelegian, Walter J. Lack, and Robert H. Carter, recently announced that they have signed a purchase agreement to acquire the government's controlling interest of the senior partnership in the Bicycle Club Joint Venture (LCP Associates, Ltd).

The purchase agreement has been signed by the U.S. government. The transfer will take place as soon as the necessary governmental licenses, permits, and approvals are secured.

The three buyers operate the successful Ocean's Eleven Casino in Oceanside, California. According to Kelegian, who is chief operating officer of Ocean's Eleven, they have plans for major renovations of the Bicycle Club Casino, the second largest card club in the state of California.

Kelegian, who in addition to being chief operating officer of Ocean's Eleven is president of the California Gaming Association, stated on behalf of the acquiring group: "The Bell Gardens Bicycle Club has a long tradition of excellence in the industry and a core group of wonderful employees. We're looking forward to completing all remaining requirements and working with these employees, with our new partners, and with Bell Gardens city officials, and to rejuvenating and consolidating the Bike's outstanding position among the casinos in the state."

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A FORD
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Friday, June 18

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The Bicycle Club Casino reserves the right to cancel or modify this promotion at its sole discretion. See official rules at the Welcome Center. No purchase necessary.

Commerce Casino ...

The month of June promises high-stakes poker action and summertime fun with the return of Commerce Casino's annual California State Poker Championship June 11-27. This year's 17-event tournament will feature \$50,000 in Best All-Around Player cash, with \$15,000 going to first place and cash prizes awarded through seventh place.

Commerce Casino's Tournament Director Cheri Dokken will be overseeing the details and operation of this event. Dokken made her debut in the director's chair at the 1999 L.A. Poker Classic, and did an outstanding job of directing that tournament.

In accordance with player references regarding the rebuy/no-rebuy structure for the upcoming state championship, 10 events will have no rebuys while six events will offer one optional rebuy. The final limit hold'em event will feature a \$100,000 guarantee and will have rebuys for the first three levels. Buy-ins for the 1999 California State Poker Championship will be \$330 for all events except the first one, which will have a \$220 buy-in. In addition, a \$1,060 buy-in has been posted for the tournament's no-limit hold'em championship. Satellites are scheduled to start on June 8 with supersatellites commencing on June 11.

While Commerce Casino poker players have their sights set on big action in June, blackjack players are preparing to hit it big with a \$25,000-guaranteed 21st Century Blackjack Tournament on May 17 and weekly cash giveaways through May 28. During May, lucky blackjack players holding

designated hands automatically are entered into Thursday night cash drawings. The drawings include a \$300 cash prize at 9 p.m. and a \$1,200 drawing at midnight. Players who win the \$1,200 drawing are offered a choice of the big cash or a big-screen TV. Blackjack players can get a close look at the big-screen televisions throughout the month of May, as they currently are on display in the California games section of the casino.

In addressing an expanding 13-card poker player base, Commerce Casino will host a \$10,000 13-card freeroll tournament on May 31 at 8:30 p.m. Players can qualify for this event by accumulating a minimum of 60 hours of live-action play in 13-card poker during valid qualifying times through May 28.

On a final note, as a sincere tribute to motherhood, Commerce Casino will extend Mother's Day wishes to all moms on Sunday, May 9 by featuring special Mother's Day meals throughout the day.

Clovis 500 Club ... Two Tournament of Champions qualifying events are scheduled to take place in June and July. On June 5, a \$110 buy-in (no rebuys) hold'em tournament will be held, and on July 17, a \$110 buy-in (no rebuys) Omaha high-low split event will be featured. Both tournaments will be limited to 50 players, so reserve your seat now.

The Clovis 500 Club's weekly tournament schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday: Omaha high-low; \$2 buy-in, \$2 rebuys; 6 p.m.
- Thursday: No-limit

hold'em; \$12 buy-in, limited add-ons; 7 p.m.

- Saturday: Charity Support Tournaments; \$5 entry, no rebuys; 3 p.m.

The Saturday Charity Support tournaments have become very popular. All entry fees are given to various nonprofit organizations in the local community. The Clovis 500 Club puts up the entire prize pool for each tournament, usually between \$300 and \$500, and gives away various other prizes, meals, and promotional items to the participants.

Lake Elsinore Casino ...

recently installed the newly legalized Venda-Tel Sweeps machine for machine players. Players also get phone cards.

Players who play in any of the Bucks tournaments have the opportunity to win a Honda motorcycle, a Sea Doo Watercraft, and a Yamaha racing motorcycle.

Lake Elsinore offers players \$9 room rates midweek, Players Club benefits, and liberal food comps.

A \$1,500-guaranteed freeroll is offered on Wednesday nights with no qualifying, no buy-in, and no entry fee. A \$1,000 freeroll is offered on Sundays at 11 a.m.; five hours of live-action play are required to qualify.

Recent *Tournament of Champions* qualifiers were James Zymanski, Mason Benner, Lee Dormer, and Mehei Roufougah.

The *Beat the Heat* tournament is coming July 16-25. Players should make reservations early for this event.

Activities planned during this tournament include the "No Bluff Bikini Contest," pool parties, a Texas barbecue, a golf tournament, and a baseball outing.

Lucky Chances Casino

... The casino's one-year anniversary celebration is scheduled to take place June 14-27. Details will be reported in this column as they become available.

Jackpots currently are in effect in both Asian games and poker games.

Casino San Pablo ...

A new \$8-\$16 hold'em game has really taken off at the casino. "In my 30 years in this business, I've never heard of this game being offered, let alone becoming such a big hit. It's what I'd call a 'nitch' game," said Casino Manager Jerry Jackway. According to Jackway, the game started on graveyard and proved to be so popular that it now runs 24 hours a day. "It's amazing; the game has broken only twice since we started, and there's always a list waiting to play." Using \$2 chips, the pots get large quickly, making \$8-\$16 one of the big-action games.

Players are enjoying the new Progressive Jackpot, with its qualifying hands to beat going down every other day. The hand to beat starts at four aces but drops to four kings and so on until some lucky player wins the cash. Linden Dale Peck became a recent winner when his queen-high straight flush in spades beat Chris Carder's spade straight flush in a \$4-\$8 hold'em game. "It's pretty unusual to have two such flushes in the same game, and it really surprised the players," stated Casino

Coordinator Rick Bell. The jackpot, seeded at \$2,000 with \$100 added each day, was at \$5,600 when Peck hit. He received \$2,800, Carder took home \$1,400, and the remaining players at the table each received \$175.

The casino recently premiered its \$100,000 scratcher game in honor of the opening of the new International Market Place just a few miles from the casino.

On the entertainment side, the Oasis Showroom will feature the Temptations Review with Dennis Edwards May 14-16; shows are at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Video monitors throughout the 550-seat showroom will allow audience members to catch every nuance of the group's performance. Ticket prices are \$25, \$27.50, and \$35.

On Saturday, May 22 at 7 p.m., the Oasis Showroom will be transformed into a professional boxing ring as police and firefighters from around the state compete in a special boxing exhibition called "Guns 'n' Hoses." Organized by El Cerrito policeman Mike Spearman, the battle of the badges will benefit the Richmond/San Pablo Burn Center and Concerns of Police Survivors. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased through BASS outlets.

Bicycle Club Casino ...
Another \$50,000 Mexican Poker Truck and Cash Giveaway is under way. The first set of cash and prize drawings will be held on Friday, June 18, so those who play Mexican Poker have plenty of time to collect drawing tickets with every

qualifying hand. A total of \$10,000 in cash prizes will be awarded, and the grand prize will be a Ford Ranger pickup.

Instant Cash Rewards are back in the Pavilion. Hundreds of dollars will be paid out for a variety of qualifying hands obtained in any California game. Pavilion players also will receive Spin & Win drawing tickets every time an Instant Cash Reward is won. Spin & Win drawing winners will get to spin the wheel for a chance to win hundreds of dollars or a new car. Spin & Win drawings will be held in the Pavilion every Friday and Saturday night starting May 7.

During the month of May, three cashpot amounts are posted in the main casino for the Ace It & Win! promotion. Players who make the Ace It & Win! qualifying hand for their game and limit win 100 percent of the cashpot. All other players at the table win an entry ticket for the \$10,000 Ace It and Win! drawings. The Ace It & Win! drawings will be held on May 16 and May 30, and more than \$20,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded. The drawings will be held every half-hour between 7 p.m. and midnight, and players could win up to \$3,000 with just one ticket.

The sixth annual Queen of Diamonds limit hold'em freeroll for ladies is set for Sunday, May 16 at 2:15 p.m. The prize pool will be \$3,500 and the first-place winner will receive \$1,500 and a trophy. Special boutique shops for the ladies will open at 10 a.m. Tournament entrants will be served a buffet between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. There will be a bounty prizes,



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Tournament Schedule

Day	Date	Game	Buy-in
Wed.	May 5	• Hold'Em	\$49
Sun.	May 9	• Hold'Em	\$25RBs/1st hr
Mon.	May 10	• Pan	\$49 w/RBs
Mon.	May 10	★ Omaha High/Low Split	\$49 w/\$40RB
Tues.	May 11	★ Hold'Em	\$59 w/\$50RB
Wed.	May 12	• Hold'Em	\$49
Sun.	May 16	• Hold'Em	\$25RBs/1st hr
Mon.	May 17	• Pan	\$49 w/RBs
Mon.	May 17	★ Omaha High/Low Split	\$49 w/\$40RB
Tues.	May 18	★ Hold'Em	\$59 w/\$50RB
Wed.	May 19	• Hold'Em	\$49
Sun.	May 23	• Hold'Em	\$25RBs/1st hr
Mon.	May 24	• Pan	\$49 w/RBs
Mon.	May 24	★ Omaha High/Low Split	\$49 w/\$40RB

• 11:15 am. start ★ 7:15 pm. start

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entry gifts, and more. The only fee for admittance to all of the festivities is \$8. Sharon Silvas, the dean of Poker College, will teach a free refresher course the day before. Anyone interested in signing up can contact the Welcome Center.

Four days of no-limit hold'em attracted more than 300 entrants during the *SpringFest '99*. The first-place winners of each event were as follows: Eskimo Clark; \$8,040, Jose Mendoza, \$6,000, and Chi Cheng, \$4,800. Chris Roulier took first place and \$2,000 in the \$5,000 *SpringFest '99* freeroll.

Hollywood Park Casino ... The Sport of Kings tournament is coming May 16-23. The tournament will feature a guaranteed \$185,000 prize pool and buy-ins ranging from \$120 to \$225. The winner of each event will be eligible to play in the Tournament of Champions. Satellites will be held each day during the tournament from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends. Entrants also will receive a special gift and food coupon along with special room rates at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, with ground transportation available for hotel guests.

Prior to the tournament on May 22, gaming theorist and author David Sklansky will lecture for an hour and sign copies of his eight books, which will be available for purchase after the seminar. This event is free to all tournament and regular Hollywood Park Casino players.

Live racing has returned

to Hollywood Park Race-track. Bet runners are available in the casino to take wagers from the tables to the betting window.

A \$2,000-guaranteed Tonk tournament will be held on May 8. The tournament will start at 6 p.m. and will be limited to the first 50 players. The buy-in will be \$30 with \$20 rebuys for the first hour. All entrants will receive a free "Tonk Championship" T-shirt to commemorate the day.

Introduction to Poker classes at Mike Caro University start Wednesday, June 23 and run through Wednesday, Aug. 11. Classes meet every Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Students are taught the fundamentals of poker with lessons in the strategy for starting hands, when to stay or fold, how to bet and raise, and how to survive against more seasoned opponents. All graduates participate in a special tournament and are eligible to win cash and prizes provided by Hollywood Park Casino. Students who complete the course learn how to play poker and receive a certificate of achievement from El Camino College and Mike Caro University. Regular players at Hollywood Park Casino who refer a spouse, relative, or friend will receive Mike Caro's Pro Poker Tells two-video set, a \$59.95 value, free. Class size is limited and reservations can be made now at the concierge desk or by calling Hollywood Park Casino.

Recent winners in the Mel W. No-Limit Hold'em tournaments were Layne Flack, who won \$4,800, and Trang Ngo, who took home first-place



Layne Flack

money of \$7,200. The Mel W. tournament is held every Sunday at 6 p.m. in the top section of the poker room.



Floorman Alex Santos (left) congratulates tournament winner Trang Ngo.

Tuesday night jazz performances are being presented as follows: On May 11, Bob DeSena will take the stage in the Finish Line Lounge, and then on May 18, Brian Simpson will entertain guests. In the Skyview Lounge, Pretty Young Nasty kicks off May's R&B lineup on May 7, while The Rose Brothers will appear the following week on May 14. R&B shows are held in the Skyview Lounge on the sixth floor, and there is no cover charge.

Hollywood Park Casino recently hosted its Sports Memorabilia, Beanie Baby, and Science Fiction Extravaganza. More than 5,000

guests attended the show and were able to meet and receive signed autographs from Wilt Chamberlin.

Chumash Casino ... Dick Hawkins recently won a seat in the Tournament of Champions when he captured first place in one of Chumash Casino's TOC qualifying events. In addition to the first-place cash award of \$1,250, Hawkins won a \$1,500 seat in the TOC at The Orleans in Las Vegas in July. The bonus also included four nights lodging. Results were as follows:



Dick Hawkins

1. Dick Hawkins \$1,250 + TOC seat
2. Mick Eckert 750
3. Bob Falkenburg 500
4. Gene Donohue 375
5. Alan Cheung 250
6. Chuck Whitford 225
7. Dennis Fisher 200
8. Jamal Sadreamali 175
9. Walter Cravitz 150

Oaks Card Club ... For the past 10 years, the Oaks Card Club has staged a series of hold'em tournaments on Sunday afternoons prior to the *World Series of Poker*. The Oaks traditionally has set aside 10 or 12 Sundays beginning in January, and as part of this special weekly tournament series, players are given an

Continued on page 104

Shooting Star Tournament and T-Shirt Extravaganza

BY CHUCK THOMPSON

Marko Trapani, Bay 101 owner, added a new twist to his now-famous *Shooting Star* tournament. Any player who knocked out one of the 15 stars received not only the \$1,000 bounty prize, but also a T-shirt with the star's picture and the words "I busted [star's name]," for example, on it.

While this seemed to be a small thing at first, it eventually produced a great deal of gentle razzing among the stars. For example, when Phil Hellmuth was knocked out by Bill Haze, Men Nguyen rushed right over and bought the "I busted Phil Hellmuth" T-shirt from Bill for \$300! He then tried to buy the Erik Seidel T-shirt for \$200, but Bill Johnson, Seidel's bounty winner, wouldn't sell. He then jokingly offered \$1 for the Tom McEvoy T-shirt.

When Vince Burgio was knocked out in seventh place by Joanne Bortner, that left John Bonetti as the only star remaining in the tournament. A great deal of fun was had speculating about which player eventually would wear the "I busted John Bonetti" T-shirt. Bonetti had the last laugh, winning the title and going home with his own T-shirt.

The final table began with Mark Klemczak holding the smallest stack at \$85,000, but in the early going, without having to show any hands, Klemczak slowly improved to pull even with the average stack. Meanwhile, Bortner's pocket queens got the best of Andy Glazer's 9-9. Glazer finished in ninth place.

Crowd favorite Tony Ng (in the big blind) made a large all-in raise against Bortner's opening raise and Burgio's call on the button. In what proved to be a key decision for Bortner, she elected to call as Burgio threw away A-K. The hands were turned up, and Ng had 7-7 while Bortner had 9-9. Her pocket nines held up, and Ng finished eighth. Ironically, Burgio would have won the pot had he called. Later, Burgio, once again holding A-K, fell victim to Bortner as she went bounty hunting, calling Burgio's all-in raise with J-3 suited. Bortner caught a queen on the river to make a straight.

Jim Miller, who did a remarkable job of recovering from a one-chip situation, managed to knock out Mel Judah. Miller, holding 10-9, flopped a pair of tens against Judah's open-end straight draw. The tens held up, and Judah finished sixth. Shortly thereafter, Klemczak's pocket nines put Matt Lefkowitz out in fifth place by holding up against K-J suited.

In a four-way limp-in pot, the flop was checked around. Then, Miller moved in on Bortner's \$40,000 bet on the turn, only to find out that Bortner, holding Q-10, already had flopped a straight. Miller finished fourth.

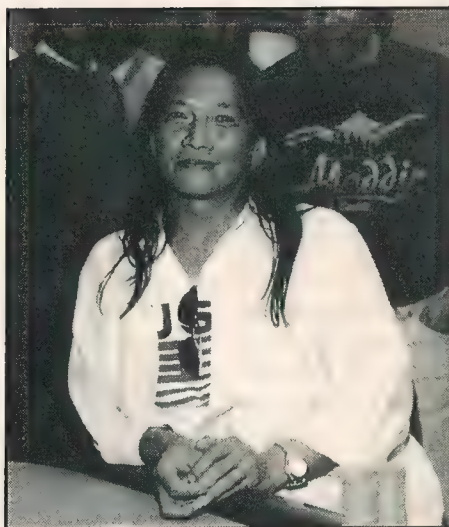
The final three players (Bonetti, Bortner, and Klemczak) each won a \$10,000 WSOP seat in addition to cash. After Bortner was eliminated, Bonetti survived a long heads-up battle with Klemczak to win the title, the T-shirt, and the right to be a star next year. The *Shooting Star Tournament* was first-class in every way. There was a great deal of fanfare as the "stars" were introduced following a fabulous buffet in their honor. Hundreds of well-wishers were on hand to meet and greet many of poker's top players. This event has become an annual tradition for many in Northern California.

In the \$500 limit hold'em event, Edwin Mayo used his luck and his aggressive play

to persevere in a tough three-way battle against Larry Kern and Patsy VanAnda. Mayo and Kern received a seat in the first event of the WSOP along with cash.

\$1,000 no-limit hold'em

1. John Bonetti \$22,000 plus seat
2. Mark Klemczak 18,500 plus seat
3. Joanne Bortner 18,500 plus seat
4. Jim Miller 9,450
5. Matt Lefkowitz 6,750
6. Mel Judah 5,400
7. Vince Burgio 4,725
8. Tony Ng 4,050
9. Andy Glazer 3,375



Edwin Mayo

\$500 limit hold'em

1. Edwin Mayo \$23,180 plus seat
2. Larry Kern 13,430 plus seat
3. Patsy VanAnda 8,250
4. Bruce Erickson 6,000
5. Steve Numoto 4,500
6. Tony Ma 3,000
7. Ron Melrose 2,625
8. Alan Poston 2,250

Two people from the *Discovery Channel* were on hand to gather information for their WSOP story. Both events were sold out, and many would-be players did not get seats — something to think about for next year. ♦



John Bonetti

The 1999 NBA Playoffs

BY CHUCK SIPPL, SENIOR EDITOR OF THE GOLD SHEET

A new era begins this season in the NBA playoffs, with the championship wide open following the retirement of Michael Jordan and the dismantling of the Bulls. During the past eight seasons, we saw Jordan's Chicago teams win three straight titles, then Houston win two when Jordan was first "retired" and later rusty in his comeback from his baseball "career," and then the Bulls win three more with Jordan back leading the way.

Now, quality teams throughout the league, frustrated during the "Jordan Era," are very excited about their increased prospects of winning the title. Utah in the West and Indiana in the East now figure that it's "their time." Charles Barkley, now in Houston, wants his ring and has six-time champ Scottie Pippen and two-time champ Hakeem Olajuwon on his side. The volatile and still-maturing Lakers have lots of "star quality" and have parted ways with Dennis Rodman. Chuck Daly has Orlando playing Piston-like defense at times, has two quality rookies (Matt Harpring and Michael Doleac), and has unleashed superquick guard Darrell Armstrong. Pat Riley has been cultivating a playoff mentality in Miami and now doesn't have to go through Chicago to get to the finals. Portland is not only deep and talented, but also has shown an ability to beat Utah in recent seasons.

After reviewing last year's playoff results and the points spread results for the last five years (which include the two Houston titles and Chicago's last three), here are some ideas to keep in mind for the 1999 playoffs.

The home-court advantage often is overrated in the playoffs. (In fact, at my home office of *The Gold Sheet*, we've found that many home courts are overrated by the oddsmakers during the regular season. But that's not important right now.) Home favorites in last year's playoffs were only 30-29 vs. the spread; home underdogs were 6-6. In the six-game finals between Chicago and Utah, the visiting team was a solid 5-1

against the spread. Overall during the last five years in the playoffs, home favorites are a dead-even 152-152-3 vs. the spread. This doesn't mean that there won't be several games this season in which a well-focused home team gets off to a fast start and is never headed. It just indicates that when the playoff schedule is complete, there's a good likelihood that the hosts and visitors each will have covered about 50 percent of the time.

In the 1998 playoffs, there were no standout teams from a points spread standpoint. The champion Bulls were only 11-10 against the spread on their way to the title, but they were a solid 4-0 as an underdog. Top challenger Utah was 11-9 vs. the spread overall and 5-2 as an underdog, with one of the losses being the 96-54 game No. 3 humiliation in Chicago. Indiana was 10-6 vs. the spread in its first playoff campaign under Larry Bird, including 5-2 when favored and 6-2 at home, as the Pacers are one of the teams that has developed a home-court edge that must be respected. Seattle once again disappointed, going only 3-7 vs. the spread overall; 0-4 on the road.

During the last five campaigns, maturing Indiana has held the biggest home-court advantage, going 16-8 as a home favorite and 2-0 as a dog. Utah has been consistent — 24-18 as a home favorite and 20-14 as a road dog. Houston, with a never-say-die attitude under coach Rudy Tomjanovich ("You can't measure the heart of a champion"), has gone 24-13 getting points. It will be interesting to see if the addition of the multidimensional Scottie Pippen can help offset the slow decline of new teammates Olajuwon and Barkley.


Points spread disappointments during the five-year period include Seattle (only 12-23 when favored); Portland (1-10 as a road dog; 4-16 overall); and Cleveland (4-10 overall).

With rebuilt Orlando once again a contender, it should be pointed out that Chuck Daly's last title team in Detroit in 1990 was a good traveler, winning three straight on the road in Portland to capture the last cham-

pionship before the Jordan Era. Daly has confided that he thinks his team has an excellent chance this year because of the emergence of superquick guard Darrell Armstrong on offense, the underrated work of Bo Outlaw on defense, and the contributions of heady rookies Matt Harpring (Georgia Tech) and Michael Doleac (Utah).

As far as totals are concerned, the "unders" definitely have had the better of it in recent seasons, going 42-27-2 last year (Utah was "under" 16-2-2). The playoffs tend to be more half-court oriented than regular-season games, and the defensive intensity gets turned up a notch. Also, referees tend to "let 'em play" as the playoffs unfold, allowing more contact and calling fewer "ticky-tack" fouls. Hard-nosed coaches such as Phil Jackson, Pat Riley, Jerry Sloan, and Chuck Daly have exploited that tendency by developing playoff defenses that include a lot of "inadvertent" but not so harmless contact. As a result, during the past three playoff years, games have gone "under" 116 times and "over" only 90 times (with Utah going "under" 39-15-4). In the last three playoffs, the semifinals and finals have gone "under" to the tune of 32-16-3. In last year's Utah-Chicago six-game final, there were five "unders," zero "overs," and one push. ♦

For more ideas and insights on the NBA playoffs, you can subscribe to The Gold Sheet's NBA Playoff late telephone service by calling (800) 798-GOLD (4653), or by visiting The Gold Sheet on the web at www.goldsheet.com. And be sure to check out The Gold Sheet's 1999 Football Preview issue, on newsstands in early July. Get the inside word on handicapping NFL preseason football, as well as the final 1999 NFL and college points spread logs, and early college football reports.

A man in a suit, identified as Jon Jenkins, 'The Boss', is sitting at a poker table. He is smiling and holding a small stack of cards. In front of him are several stacks of colorful poker chips (red, green, blue, yellow) and a large pile of chips on the table. The background is dark.

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I. Nelson Rose



Status of Casino Enabling Laws

The following are American jurisdictions having recent legal activity concerning casino gambling. States and territories with legal gaming devices are marked with an asterisk: *, while states allowing, by law or compact, at least one casino (defined as having both banking card games and slotlike machines) are marked with an exclamation point: !, even if the casino is not yet open.

United States — The National Gambling Impact Study Commission, created by Congress, is due to produce a "comprehensive study of the social and economic impacts of gambling in the United States" in June 1999. Sen. Jon Kyl has reintroduced his Internet Gambling Prohibition Act, without the provision making betting a crime.

Alabama — The Poarch Band of Creek Indians sued the state under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) when the governor refused to negotiate for casinos. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit ruled: (1) A state could not be sued without its consent; but, (2) then the Secretary of the Interior would make the gaming regulations. The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Seminole vs. Florida*, affirmed the first, but refused to decide any other issue. Congress temporarily blocked Secretary Bruce Babbitt from issuing casino regulations, but he is trying to slip them in through a loophole. Meanwhile, a constitutional amendment to allow a state lottery moves forward, and the House voted 49-48 to let the state's four dog tracks get video poker machines.

Alaska — Casinos are prohibited by state law; yet, the governor was negotiating to allow the Klawock band of Tlingit Indians to

open a full casino on remote Prince of Wales Island.

!*Arizona — Charities may have occasional casino nights with slot machines; Indian tribes can, and do, operate slots year-round. Gov. Symington signed compacts with 16 tribes, but, misreading the federal 9th Circuit's opinion in *Rumsey*, refused to sign any more. In November 1996, voters approved the "Fairness Initiative" 64 percent to 36 percent, requiring the state to negotiate compacts with the five tribes that had been left out — the first time in American history that a state voted to allow new high-stakes casinos in the face of active opposition (see *Michigan*). The House of Representatives approved raising the gambling age from 18 to 21; the measure is pending in the Senate.

Arkansas — Competing proposed constitutional amendments gathered enough signatures to be on the November 1996 ballot, but the state Supreme Court found all but one misleading. The remaining initiative to legalize casinos lost by a landslide, due in part to the state's active religious organizations and opposition from Mississippi's casinos.

!*California — By spending \$70 million, tribes won voter approval of Prop. 5, which would make legal their now-illegal slot machines and banking blackjack. The state Supreme Court issued a stay, because Prop. 5 seems to violate the state constitutional prohibition on Nevada- and New Jersey-style casinos. Then-Gov. Pete Wilson signed compacts with the Pala Band and 10 other tribes, allowing them to have limited numbers of

slotlike lottery terminals. But, the "Pala compacts" have been stalled by a referendum set for the March 2000 election. Meanwhile, the Indian casinos stay open.

!*Colorado — \$5 maximum blackjack, poker, and slot machines are in casinos in three mountain towns and on two Indian reservations. Widespread gray-market video gaming devices pay off when police aren't around. In November 1994, voters overwhelmingly rejected adding new towns and slot machines in every airport. In November 1996, voters again rejected expansion, voting against adding a fourth town.

!*Connecticut — Then-Gov. Weiacker signed compacts giving an oligopoly on slots to two tribes, for a guaranteed minimum payment of \$80 million each. The compacts lack any limits, so Foxwoods has become the largest, most profitable casino in the world: 315,310-square-foot casino, 370 table games, keno, poker tables, racebook, high-stakes bingo, and 5,700 slot machines. The two Indian casinos will win more than \$1.5 billion this year, making Connecticut the third largest casino market in the United States.

***Delaware** — A bill became law in 1994, without the Governor's signature, allowing the state's three racetracks to have up to 1,000 video lottery terminals (VLTs) each. The VLTs opened during the 1996 New Year's Eve weekend. The Legislature doubled the number of permitted machines in 1998: Delaware Park now has 1,198; Dover Downs, 1,568; and Harrington (Midway), 702; for a current statewide total of 3,468.

Florida — See *Alabama*. The Seminoles operate four casinos with slots, without compacts or regulations; Gov. Jeb Bush is threatening to sue the federal government. A November 1994 casino initiative lost big at the ballot box. Proponents have temporarily given up gathering signatures for another attempt; although, powerful legislators want to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot that, if approved, would give voters in large counties the right to vote on legalizing casinos. In March 1999, the House Regulated Services Committee approved, 8-0, permitting electronic slots at tracks and jai alai frontons. Casino cruises to nowhere operate out of Florida's ports.

Georgia — There is nothing beyond a lottery and charity bingo and raffles.

Hawaii — All gambling is outlawed, but more than 30 bills have been introduced in the state Legislature to legalize gambling.

Idaho — The state constitution was amended in 1992 to specifically prohibit casinos, with one target in mind: Indian casinos. Tribes are operating gaming devices anyway, without compacts. The Coeur d'Alenes, after losing court battles, closed their Internet lottery.

Illinois — Under a 1990 constitutional amendment, the Legislature authorized up to 10 riverboat casinos, but not in Cook County or on Lake Michigan (Chicago). Currently, there are only nine riverboats, and none have the maximum allowed 1,200 gaming positions. There is constant political pressure to expand: The most recent proposal would put the 3,500 unused gaming positions on brand-new riverboats, let casinos operate in Chicago, allow existing riverboats to relocate to new cities, and permit gambling when the boats are not cruising.

Indiana — In November 1995, the state Supreme Court reversed a trial court and held that the riverboat casino law was constitutional. Nine now sail; soon, there will be 11. The Pokagon band of Potawatomi Indians is trying to open a land-based casino in North-Central Indiana. A study released in 1999 found that gambling is the state's fifth largest source of revenue.

Iowa — Slots are legal on nine riverboat casinos, at two racetracks, and in three Indian casinos. The Senate rejected a proposed five-year moratorium on new casino licenses, which would have allowed existing casinos to expand.

Kansas — Gov. Graves signed and the state Legislature approved casino compacts with four tribes. Although the compacts were reported to exclude electronic gaming devices, tribal casinos have slot and video poker machines, as well as table games. In February 1999, a bill was introduced to let the state lottery operate the same machines at dog and horse tracks; a similar proposal passed the House in 1996 but died in the Senate. The governor seems open to the idea, but it probably will fail in the Senate.

Kentucky — In January 1997, Gov. Paul Patton said that he would consider supporting VLTs for racetracks, given the competition from neighboring states' riverboats; now, he says that he would consider full casinos. But, the Legislature seems opposed.

Louisiana — A flood of gaming bills was expected to be introduced when the Legislature recently convened. A fight is brewing over "phantom cruises," whereby casinos have to close their doors when they are docked. There are about 15,000 video poker machines throughout the state; truck stops now are limited to 50 machines, and they have to sell gasoline! There are 13 casinos on riverboats, three on Indian land,

and one in New Orleans (which is presently bankrupt). Then-newly elected Gov. Mike Foster put gaming on local ballots in November 1996, but parishes with casinos voted overwhelmingly to keep their casinos, and 23 parishes voted to invite casinos in. Video poker was rejected in 35 parishes, while 29 voted to keep their gaming devices.

Maine — The federal court ruled that the Maine Land Settlement Act pre-empts IGRA, so the state will not be forced to negotiate for Indian casinos. Charities can offer blackjack.

Maryland — Charities are pushing to regain the right to run casino gaming, including slot machines. Bills to allow riverboat and land-based casinos have been introduced, but cannot overcome Gov. Glendening. He appointed a task force, which voted unanimously against casinos for Maryland. Tracks have a statute allowing phone wagers, and now want implementing regulations. They also would like slots, but know that they cannot win.

Massachusetts — Top lawmakers, led by newly elected Attorney General Thomas Reilly, have abruptly turned against casinos.

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Gov. Paul Cellucci now says that he will negotiate only Class II gaming with the Wampanoag Indians. Four pending casino bills thus will fail. The state's horse and dog tracks need slots to survive, but they will not get them this session.

!Michigan — There are 11 Indian casinos, with slots, and all but two are in the Upper Peninsula. Gov. John Engler negotiated new compacts with most tribes in 1998. In November 1996, voters approved three casinos for Detroit, despite the strong opposition of Gov. Engler — the first time in American history that citizens of a state voted to allow new high-stakes commercial casinos in the face of active opposition. Attorney General Jennifer Granholm has approved temporary casinos for Detroit. The state's racetracks now say that they need slot machines to survive. Charities also are asking the Legislature for help: Bingo revenue in 1998 was down 26 percent from 1992.

!Minnesota — There are 17 Indian casinos (more than in Atlantic City) with slots. A House committee approved a bill for a constitutional amendment for the 2000 ballot to allow a state lottery-run casino with blackjack and slots at Canterbury Park in

Shakopee, in direct competition with Mystic Lake Casino and dice games in bars. But, it failed, 7-7, in a Senate committee. Jesse Ventura's surprise win in November breathed new life into the track-casino proposal, which he has said he would sign.

!Mississippi — State law allows an unlimited number of dockside and riverboat casinos with slots; there are now 30. Mississippi has become the third largest (non-Indian) casino state. In November 1996, voters in DeSoto County, between Tunica and Memphis, again turned down casinos. Casino opponent Elizabeth Stoner has filed her third initiative attempt to ban gambling. She needs to get 98,336 signatures.

!Missouri — It has taken four elections to make casinos legal. In early 1994, the state Supreme Court nearly destroyed the state's new riverboat casino industry by limiting the boats to games with some skill. The November 1994 election amended the state constitution to allow slot machines, keno, bingo, and other games of pure chance. The Court then outlawed boats-in-a-moat, but the voters made them legal again. A \$500 limit on gambling losses remains, despite repeated attempts to raise it.

***Montana** — Video poker and keno

machines, without coin drops, are everywhere. Indian tribes have signed compacts allowing them also to have these limited machines, but negotiations over true casinos have broken down. State law allows card clubs and limited forms of sports betting.

Nebraska — Tribes would like to negotiate for full casinos, but the Santee Sioux's lawsuit against the state was dismissed following Seminole. The tribe opened a casino anyway. A U.S. district judge ordered the tribe to pay a \$3,000 fine for each day it keeps its casino open after Feb. 2, 1999, and even commented that he might start imprisoning tribal leaders if his ruling is not taken seriously. Slot machine bills are under consideration in the state Legislature. Casino initiatives did not make the November 1996 ballot, because many signatures were those of people who were dead.

!Nevada — Casinos range from tiny to gargantuan. "Limited licenses" allow retail establishments throughout the state to have up to 15 slot machines, but a political movement against them is growing. A movement to raise the gross gaming tax from 6.25 percent, the lowest in the country, to 8.25 percent seems to be dying.

New Hampshire — A key legislative

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committee rejected Gov. Jeanne Shaheen's plan to install up to 3,750 video gaming machines at the state's four racetracks to help fund public education. Senate President Clesson Blaisdell supports the bill, but House Speaker Donna Sytek said that she would work to defeat any plan to legalize slots at tracks. The latest proposal would allow four hotels and resorts to have up to 500 slots each.

!New Jersey — The 12 casinos in Atlantic City will win more than \$4 billion this year, making them the largest gaming market in the United States, just ahead of the Las Vegas Strip. The state lottery would like to put in video lottery terminals statewide. Given the casinos' political power, the proposal seems doubtful.

!New Mexico — Gov. Johnson, elected and re-elected with major tribal contributions, signed compacts for tribal casinos that were declared illegal. The Legislature passed a statute in 1997 legalizing them, but imposed a high (16 percent) tax. Only four of the 11 tribes with casinos are paying in full. The compacts are being challenged in court by both tribes and gaming opponents. To get the bill through, tracks and fraternal organizations also had to be given slots — the first slots opened at Sunland Park in March 1999. Also in March, the Legislature approved a bill allowing tribes to renegotiate with a committee of 16 legislators. Opponents are threatening suit, because the full Legislature would only have the power to vote yes or no on new compacts; amendments would be prohibited.

!New York — Gov. George Pataki may be pro-gaming, but leaders of the Legislature are not. They forced the lottery to discontinue keno and defeated constitutional amendments necessary to allow privately owned casinos, despite the enormous success of Ontario's Casino Niagara and the Oneida tribe's Turning Stone casino. A questionable court decision allows New York City to license casino day-trips-to-nowhere. The Off-Track Betting Corp. announced plans to set up the first state-sponsored Internet

betting site, but the Legislature balked.

!North Carolina — In August 1994, the governor signed a compact allowing the Cherokees to offer video gaming at one bingo hall. A subsequent decision of the state Court of Appeals raises questions about the legality of video poker, but the tribe is continuing to operate its 2,300 machines. The House approved, 91-11, a bill to virtually outlaw casino cruises-to-nowhere from the North Carolina coast.

!North Dakota — There is low-stakes charity blackjack in hotels and there are four Indian casinos with slots; Spirit Lake has 500 slots, blackjack, craps, poker, simulcast racing, bingo, and keno. Voters think the state has enough gambling: In July 1996, a proposal for video gaming was defeated at the polls; in 1986, voters rejected establishing a state lottery — the only state to do so this century.

Ohio — In November 1996, a riverboat casino initiative was defeated 62 percent to 38 percent. Casino bills and initiatives have been attempted every other year for decades, and always have failed.

Oklahoma — Voters resoundingly defeated a casino initiative. The state had been ordered by a federal Court of Appeals to negotiate for tribal Class III gambling, but the case was dismissed following Seminole. A bill to allow charity raffles may accidentally reopen the door for Indian casinos.

!Oregon — The state lottery runs video poker machines, a maximum of five per location. It was ruled by the state Supreme Court that they do not constitute "casinos." Anti-gaming forces, led by Rev. Tom Grey, are trying to get a referendum on the 2000 ballot to outlaw video poker. Indian tribes have full casinos. Charities can run casino nights. The state lottery takes bets on professional sports events.

Pennsylvania — On March 8, 1999, a proposed nonbinding referendum for riverboat casinos and slots at bars and tracks was declared to be unconstitutional by the state Senate. Although only a court has the power to decide whether something is con-

stitutional, politically, the issue is over: The Senate vote was 28-21. Tracks are desperately attempting to revive the issue, but slots and casinos are dead, until at least the end of Gov. Tom Ridge's term in 2003.

***Rhode Island** — The state runs 1,628 VLTs at Newport Grand Jai Alai and Lincoln Greyhound Park; they want 850 more. The governor signed a compact for an Indian casino, but local voters disapproved of casinos in their cities in a November 1994 referendum by margins as high as 84 percent against. U.S. Sen. John Chafee pushed through a bill requiring statewide voter approval of any Narragansett casino. Competing bills were introduced in the General Assembly to regulate proposed casinos.

***South Carolina** — Video poker machines are legal, under strange laws. Voters approved cash payouts in 30 of 46 counties in November 1994. The Republican incumbent lost the 1998 election due to his opposition to a state lottery and slots. Newly elected Gov. Jim Hodges is considering lifting the \$125-a-day cap on machine payouts. A bill to create a lottery and video gambling referendum for the year 2000 has received overwhelming preliminary approval in the Senate. The House approved a ban on gambling cruises-to-nowhere, but the bill is held up in the Senate over the question of whether cities and counties should be given a local option to allow boats.

!South Dakota — There are casinos (\$5 maximum bet) in one city, Deadwood, and on 10 Indian reservations, with true slots. The state lottery's 7,959 VLTs were declared unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court on June 22, 1994; but, voters reinstated the gaming devices by amending the state constitution in the November 1994 election. In February 1999, the House rejected bills that would have outlawed or restricted VLTs.

Tennessee — There's lots of talk, but no chance of casinos until 2000, at the earliest.

Texas — A federal trial court had ruled that the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo near El Paso



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could have a full casino with slots; but, the 5th Circuit reversed. Now, no one knows what games are allowed. The Kickapoos recently lost a case over gaming devices. Elsewhere, the Texas attorney general ruled that casinos would require amending the constitution, which won't happen this century.

Vermont — A bill to allow casinos on railroads didn't leave the station. A racetrack in the southern part of the state is campaigning hard for slot machines, and a bill to allow full casinos is pending.

Virginia — In 1994, a riverboat casino bill sank under the weight of excess baggage: Disney's proposed historic theme park got tacked on. The bills were reintroduced in 1995, for the third time, and already have been defeated.

!* Washington — Tribes have casinos, supposedly without slots (IGRA grandfathered in one with true slots). The tribes sued the state, but the 9th Circuit dismissed the suit after the U.S. Supreme Court's Seminole decision. Voters turned down proposals for tribal slots in 1995 and 1996, but the tribes are getting them anyway, in the form of video lottery machines. In an attempt to level the playing field, the

Legislature allowed privately owned cardrooms to have house-banked blackjack. There are now 40 minicasinios, and bills have been introduced to limit their growth.

***West Virginia** — In March 1999, the Legislature approved a unique bill: Greenbrier County voters will decide whether to permit a casino at Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs that will be open only to registered overnight guests of the hotel. Five tracks have VLTs. Jefferson County voted in November 1996 to permit VLTs at Charles Town Races; the voters had turned the track down in 1994. Gov. Cecil Underwood will let a bill become law without his signature that will allow VLTs to accept coins.

!*Wisconsin — There are 15 Indian casinos with slots. The Legislature voted in 1993 to prohibit further casino expansion, but proposals for massive new casinos still pop up. The original compacts began expiring in 1998, but were mostly renewed when tribes agreed to raise the gambling age to 21 and make larger payments to the state.

Wyoming — An initiative to allow full casinos was defeated by a 2-to-1 margin on

Nov. 8, 1994. The electoral defeat means fewer jobs for lawyers: The initiative was so poorly written that it was legally unclear whether bets would have been limited to \$25 maximum or whether there would have been no limits. State law allows limited sports betting.

American Possessions

District of Columbia — A riverboat casino initiative failed to get enough legitimate signatures: of 45,000 signatures gathered, fewer than 15,000 were from voters.

!*Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas — Casinos with slots are allowed.

***Guam** — Gaming devices are legal. In November 1996, an initiative to allow full casinos to compete with those on the nearby island of Saipan in the Northern Marianas was defeated at the polls.

!*Puerto Rico — There are full casinos with a strange twist: The government used to own the slot machines. A movement to privatize developed in 1996.

!* Virgin Islands — Local voters approved the concept of legalized casinos in a nonbinding referendum in November 1994. Legislation for casinos has been approved, and the first license has been issued. ♦



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You Make the Call

By MICHAEL O'MALLEY

John McKethen sent me an E-mail recently, asking advice on the following situation:

The game was \$3-\$6 hold'em. Three players saw the river, player No. 1 bet, player No. 2 called, and player No. 3 raised. Player No. 1, not realizing that player No. 3 had raised, turned over his second-nut flush. Player No. 2 immediately mucked his hand. The dealer, thinking that player No. 1 was folding but showing what a good hand he had, mucked player No. 1's hand. Player No. 1 immediately objected, but was informed by the dealer that he had not called the raise.

McKethen wrote: "It seems that this was very unfair to player No. 1, and that he should have been allowed to act, even though his hand was exposed and player No. 2 already had acted."

Although it may seem unfair, player No. 1 has a responsibility to act accordingly, in turn. When player No. 3 raised, player No. 1 had three options: fold, call, or raise. Player No. 1 turned his cards faceup, causing player No. 2 to act behind him. At that point, player No. 1 had caused the action to pass him, making his hand dead. In this situation, it seems as though there is no harm in allowing player No. 1 to call the raise, but remember, decisions need to be consistent, and this situation, with different circumstances, calls for the same decision. ♦

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Whose Flop?

The 1998 *World Series of Poker* championship no-limit hold'em event at Binion's Horseshoe in Downtown Las Vegas began with 350 entrants putting up \$10,000 each. At the start of the fourth and final day, only five players remained — Scotty Nguyen with \$1,184,000, Kevin McBride with \$873,000, T.J. Cloutier with \$829,000, Dewey Weum with \$376,000, and Lee Salem with \$240,000 (an extra \$2,000 having been introduced through rounding up to higher chip denominations). Five players to begin the final day was a unique situation in the 29-year history of the *World Series of Poker*, coming about as a result of Scotty Nguyen knocking out *two* players in the last hand the previous day. Here is how that happened:

The stakes had escalated to antes of \$2,000 and blind bets of \$5,000 and \$10,000. McBride had the button, and Salem and Cloutier were in the blinds when Jan Lundberg, under the gun with 10♠ 10♣, pushed in his whole stack of \$61,000. Weum folded, Nguyen — with A♦ Q♦ — called, and then Ben Roberts — with A♠ A♥ — raised \$56,000 more with all of the chips he had left, whereupon the others quickly folded around to Nguyen, who hesitated briefly and then called. Then, since Nguyen was the only one of the three with any chips left, there could be no further betting, so they turned their cards faceup for all to see.

At this point, assuming all unknown cards to be random, Ben Roberts' A♠ A♥ was a powerful odds-on favorite at 70.57% chances to win this pot, followed by Lundberg's 10♠ 10♥ at 18.80%, and Nguyen's A♦ Q♦ the longest shot at 10.64%. But then, the flop came Q♥ 5♦ 4♦, obviously a tremendous boost to Nguyen's A♦ Q♦, pairing his queen and providing two diamonds for his flush draw. So, our first question is who is now the favorite? Is Roberts, who is still in the lead with his aces, still the favorite to win, odds-on, or has Nguyen now become the favorite, and is he odds-on? Think about it, and then read on.

Well, as great as this Q♥ 4♦ 5♦ flop was for Nguyen's A♦ Q♦, a pair of aces is a powerful hand that is not so easily brought down, and is *still the odds-on favorite*! Yes, at that point, Roberts' A♠ A♥ still had 51.33% chances to 44.13% for Nguyen's A♦ Q♦ and only a fading 4.54% for Lundberg's 10♠ 10♣.

The turn card (the fourth upcard) was the J♠, a brick of no direct help to anybody, but actually a help to Roberts by leaving him in the lead with only a single card yet to come. Our next question here is, are Roberts'

chances now back up to the lofty 70.57% heights, where they were before any upcards at all were dealt? Think about that, and then read on.

Yes, despite the great flop for Nguyen, with the "brick" J♠ next, Roberts' advantage rebounded to an even *better* 71.43% to 26.19% for Nguyen and just a remote 2.38% for Lundberg, who now could be saved only by the 10♥.

Well, the final upcard was the little 2♦, making a winning flush for Nguyen and knocking out Roberts and Lundberg to set the table for the final day.

Las Vegas professional Scotty Nguyen then went on to win the championship in a long, hard duel that final day, ultimately defeating Floridian Kevin McBride heads up. Ironically, McBride lost one large pot with A♦ Q♦, the very same cards with which Nguyen had beaten Roberts and Lundberg, and also the very same cards with which *Card Player's* own Mike Caro got himself knocked out earlier in the championship.

In the final hand, McBride had the dealer button and the \$25,000 small blind, and Nguyen had the \$50,000 big blind. McBride, with Q♥ 10♥, raised \$50,000, and Nguyen, with J♦ 9♠, a 1.94-to-1 underdog, called. The flop was 8♠ 9♦ 9♥. Nguyen checked his three nines, and McBride, unaware that he was now a staggering 18.41-to-1 underdog, bet \$100,000, which Nguyen thought for a while about raising, but decided to just call at that point. The fourth upcard was the 8♥, giving Nguyen a full house, which he cagily just checked again. McBride bet another \$100,000, which Nguyen again just called. McBride's prayers now rode entirely on the J♥ to make a straight flush, but that was not to be, as the final upcard was the 8♠, making a full house on the board. Here, Nguyen was not about to allow McBride any chance to get away alive, and he bet for all of McBride's remaining \$310,000. While McBride pondered deeply, Nguyen stood up with beer and cigarette in hand, and warned bluntly, "You call, gonna be all over, baby." After some more thought, McBride announced rather matter-of-factly, "I call; I play the board." Nguyen then showed his \$1 million championship winning hand, leaving McBride to be consoled with the hefty \$687,500 second-place prize.

Congratulations to 1998 World Champion Scotty Nguyen!♦

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Read 'em and Laugh



MAX SHAPIRO

A Face-Lift for Card Player

Memo to Linda Johnson from Max Shapiro: I have an idea that can help *Card Player* build up its newsstand sales. What you need to do is create splashy covers and eye-catching story headlines, which is how other magazines go about grabbing people's attention. To show what I mean, here are a few examples of the way other publications might go about it.

No magazine is better at this game than the *National Enquirer*. Its headlines, screaming of juicy scandal, entice bored

housewives to grab copies from supermarket checkout stands. Its favorite word is "shocking," and here's how it would build up a *Card Player* story:

Mike Sexton's Shocking Relationship With Women

Mike Sexton, widely regarded as the ultimate class act of poker, has a shocking secret past. Those who know him as a polite, mannerly gentleman will be shocked to learn that he spent his earlier years shockingly pursuing the company of

women, as many and as often as possible. An insider close to him reveals that Mike has wrapped his arms around hundreds, perhaps thousands, of ladies young and old, sometimes a dozen or more a night. How could such a shocking thing happen? Simple, our source says: Mike once worked as a professional dance instructor.

Get the drift, Linda? OK, now let's see how *GQ*, the men's fashion magazine, might jazz up a cover story:

Secrets of Dressing Just Like Tom McEvoy

Not many people could spend a small fortune on clothes and still end up looking like a shlump, but noted poker champion and author Tom McEvoy makes it look easy. The main thing, he points out, is to abandon all attempts at color coordination. Matching an iridescent green jacket with a sky blue shirt, for example, is one of his favorite combinations. Selecting clashing fabrics, such as a velvet jacket and corduroy pants, is another of his signature fashion statements. Sometimes, Tom admits, he accidentally allows his ensembles to nearly match, but no matter how suave he almost gets, he always saves his reputation by wearing chunky shoes that are the polar opposite color of his wardrobe.

Even quasi-scholarly magazines such as *Psychology Today* use breathless headlines. Here's how it would treat a story on a serious psychological study of a poker game:

Are Omaha Players Born or Made Crazy?

Scientists have long wondered whether poker players play Omaha because they

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are unbalanced, or if they become unbalanced after playing the game. This is related to the debate over whether heredity or environment is the more crucial factor in one's development. Now, a key study by the noted poker psychologist Dr. Wolfgang Krock seems to indicate that both are equally important: Disturbed people are drawn to Omaha as frequently as Omaha causes previously normal people to become disturbed. Dr. Krock studied a group of 100 patients in a mental institution. Given their choice of poker games to play, all but five chose Omaha, with the remainder selecting crazy pineapple. In a parallel study, he had 100 Harvard students play Omaha regularly over a period of six weeks. Of these, 95 ended up in a mental institution. The other five committed suicide.

To reach women poker players, we can rely on *Cosmopolitan* magazine for guidance. Virtually every issue of this magazine has the same headline, or a variation, on its cover: "Nine Ways to a Better Orgasm." (Oh, we can't use the word "orgasm" in *Card Player*? How about "Climax"? "Thrill"? "Satisfaction"?) OK, none of the above, so let's go with this approach:

Improve Your Sex Life While You Play Poker!

That valuable time wasted between hands can be put to good use to heighten your erotic senses. Here are nine ways that you can become a better lover while sitting at the table. 1. Gently slide your fingertips over the smooth surface of the poker table and imagine that you are gliding them over Max Shapiro's head. 2. Reach under the table and massage the dealer's knee and see if you can make him drop the deck. 3. Take an ice cube and ... (well, you get the idea).

OK, we're on a roll. Now let's see how a financial magazine like *Money* would headline a story in *Card Player*:

Winning at Poker Without Any Risk

There's money to be made at poker, but not everybody has spare capital to be put at risk playing the game. So, here's an ingenious no-gamble strategy devised for you by the editors of *Money* magazine. First, find a casino with a jackpot payout that's split among everyone at the table. Make sure that you can come in after the button passes without posting. Fold every hand until it's your blind, then get up and move to another table. Eventually,

somebody will hit a jackpot, and you'll get your share. Granted, it might take nine years, but it **will** happen, without your risking a cent. Who says there's no such thing as a free lunch?"

Well, Linda, I'm sure that you've recognized the potential of this idea, and probably are thinking of sensational ways to copy other magazines right now — but I'd like to throw out one more brilliant example.

Do you know which magazine has a guaranteed sellout issue each year? It's *Sports Illustrated*, of course, and it does it with its annual "Swimwear" issue. Well, why can't *Card Player* produce its own annual men's swimwear issue? Just think what a sensation you'd create by having poker notables like Puggy Pearson, Eskimo Clark, Oklahoma Johnny Hale, and Dirty Wally posing in the latest swim trunks. I guarantee you, that issue would be an instant collector's item!

So, what do you think of my ideas?

Memo from Linda Johnson to Max Shapiro: Thanks, but I think that we'll stick with our present format for the time being. ♦

You can E-mail your comments and complaints to Max at readenlaff@aol.com.



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RESULTS

SILVER STAR SOUTHEASTERN POKER CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Southeastern Poker Championships recently concluded at Silver Star Resort and Casino in Philadelphia, Mississippi. The 12-event tournament attracted a total of 1,934 entrants and paid out \$369,600 in prize money.

Congratulations to all of the winners and to the entire Silver Star staff for hosting a very successful inaugural event.

\$200 limit hold'em

Entrants: 294 • Prize pool: \$58,800

1. Vince Antonucci	\$23,271
2. Jeff Sims	11,377
3. Dale Whatfield	5,688
4. Joel Cook	2,844
5. Tom Dye	2,069
6. John Collins	1,810
7. Ray Weaver Sr.	1,551
8. Ron Johnson	1,292
9. Ronaldo Hermosa	1,034
10. Twey Lee	775

\$50 seven-card stud high-low split (one rebuy)

Entrants: 195 • Prize pool: \$18,300

1. Joe Pharo	\$7,336
2. Leamon Varbrough	3,749
3. Jack Johnston	1,956
4. Jerry Pitts	978
5. David Travers	815
6. John Hogland	652
7. John Napoli	489
8. Glen Young	326

\$200 seven-card stud

Entrants: 134 • Prize pool: \$26,800

1. Derrick Curry	\$11,835
2. Andrew Bratton	6,049
3. Leonard DeSalvo	3,156
4. Kelly Baggett	1,578
5. Edwin L. Capps Jr.	1,315
6. John Miotis	1,052
7. Richard Costin	789
8. Tony Weiner	526

\$50 Omaha high-low split (one rebuy)

Entrants: 248 • Prize pool: \$23,000

1. Eddie Albert	\$9,483
2. Dennis Otto	4,636
3. Jermy Taylor	2,318
4. Jimmy Sommerfield	1,159
5. Al Newell	843

6: Jack Ward	737
7: Brett Sampson	632
8: David Spears	527
9: Tom Despasquale	421
10: Steve Parao	316

\$200 no-limit hold'em

Entrants: 184 • Prize pool: \$36,800

1. Edward Comer	\$15,512
2. Joseph Meyers	7,583
3. James McDermont	3,791
4. Justin Teubner	1,896
5. Pete Kretzner	1,379
6. Nelson Lubner	1,207
7. David Garrison	1,034
8. Jim Nelly	862
9. Don Robinson	689
10. Richard Collingsworth	517

\$50 pot-limit Omaha (one rebuy)

Entrants: 133 • Prize pool: \$19,200

1. Rodney Dockins	\$7,580
2. Kia Williams	3,706
3. Dennis Jones	1,853
4. Dennis Otto	926
5. Larry Canfield	674
6. Dana Diephouse	590
7. Buster Ogle	505
8. Jerry Haik	421
9. Chance Willis	337

\$200 Omaha high-low split

Entrants: 166 • Prize pool: \$33,200

1. Walter William	\$14,153
2. Quik Odell Jr.	6,919
3. Karl Sanders	3,460
4. John Strayson	1,730
5. Doug Hazer	1,258
6. Kip Williams	1,101
7. Rip Poulor	944
8. Jerry Haik	786
9. William McCool	629
10. Joe Meyer	472

\$50 limit hold'em (one rebuy)

Entrants: 266 • Prize pool: \$23,000

1. Howard Jones	\$9,187
2. Jerry Baird	4,492
3. William Paul Williams	2,246
4. Seale Allen	1,123
5. Craig DeSalvo	817
6. Marion Bush	715
7. Fred Sigur	612

8. Mike Allen	510
9. Mark Chow	408
10. Justin Teubner	306

\$200 pot-limit Omaha

Entrants: 114 • Prize pool: \$22,800

1. David Garrison	\$9,585
2. Bruce VanHorn	4,686
3. Jim Spain	2,343
4. Robert Lockhart	1,172
5. Burt Lander	852
6. Buddy William	745
7. Mike Runardy	639
8. Bob Walker	532
9. Joe Mobley	426
10. Dennis Otto	320

\$50 limit hold'em (one rebuy)

Entrants: 77 • Prize pool: \$8,700

1. Claud Sigmon	\$3,719
2. Lenord DiSalvo	1,818
3. Jim Weatherby	909
4. Bill Lester	455
5. Pete Kutzner	331
6. Paul Matthews	289
7. Justin Westmoreland	248
8. Hugh Durden	207
9. Justin Teubner	165
10. Joe Burke	124

\$100 ladies seven-card stud (one rebuy)

Entrants: 29 • Prize pool: \$5,000

1. Edna Chard	\$2,176
2. Judy Carpenter	1,112
3. Sung Chung	580
4. Ellen Jacobs	290
5. Margo Adams	242
6. June Haggard	193
7. Rachael Morreau	145
8. Janice Erikson	97

\$1,000 no-limit hold'em

Entrants: 94 • Prize pool: \$94,000

1. Justin Westmoreland	\$41,625
2. Joe Meyers	20,350
3. Buddy Williams	10,175
4. Billy McQuire	5,087
5. Fred Sigour	3,700
6. Josh Arrett	3,237
7. Tom Dye	2,775
8. Terrace Jennings	2,312
9. William Truett	1,850
10. Doug Hosten	1,387

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JULY 10-25, 1999
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SAT. JULY 10 • \$120
LIMIT HOLD'EM • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 1002

THUR. JULY 15 • \$230
LIMIT HOLD'EM • NOON
NEW EVENT

TUES. JULY 20 • \$230
LIMIT HOLD'EM • NOON
ONE \$200 REBUY
1998 ENTRIES 231

SUN. JULY 11 • \$120
OMAHA HI-LO • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 592

FRI. JULY 16 • \$230
OMAHA HI-LO • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 294

WED. JULY 21 • \$230
OMAHA HI-LO • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 236

MON. JULY 12 • \$120
SEVEN CARD STUD • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 480

SAT. JULY 17 • \$230
LIMIT HOLD'EM • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 422

THUR. JULY 22 • \$120
NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM • NOON
\$100 REBUYS
1998 ENTRIES 315

TUES. JULY 13 • \$230
LIMIT HOLD'EM • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 436

SUN. JULY 18 • \$230
SEVEN CARD STUD • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 220

FRI. JULY 23 • \$230
OMAHA POT LIMIT • NOON
ONE \$200 REBUY
NEW EVENT

WED. JULY 14 • \$230
LIMIT OMAHA • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 199

MON. JULY 19 • \$230
7-CARD STUD HI-LO • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 230

SAT. JULY 24 • \$330
LIMIT HOLD'EM • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 348

WED. JULY 14 • \$120
CHINESE POKER • 3PM
ONE \$100 REBUY
1998 ENTRIES 39

MON. JULY 19 • \$120
LADIES HOLD'EM • 3PM
ONE \$100 REBUY
1998 ENTRIES 146

SUN. JULY 25 • \$540
NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM • NOON
1998 ENTRIES 253

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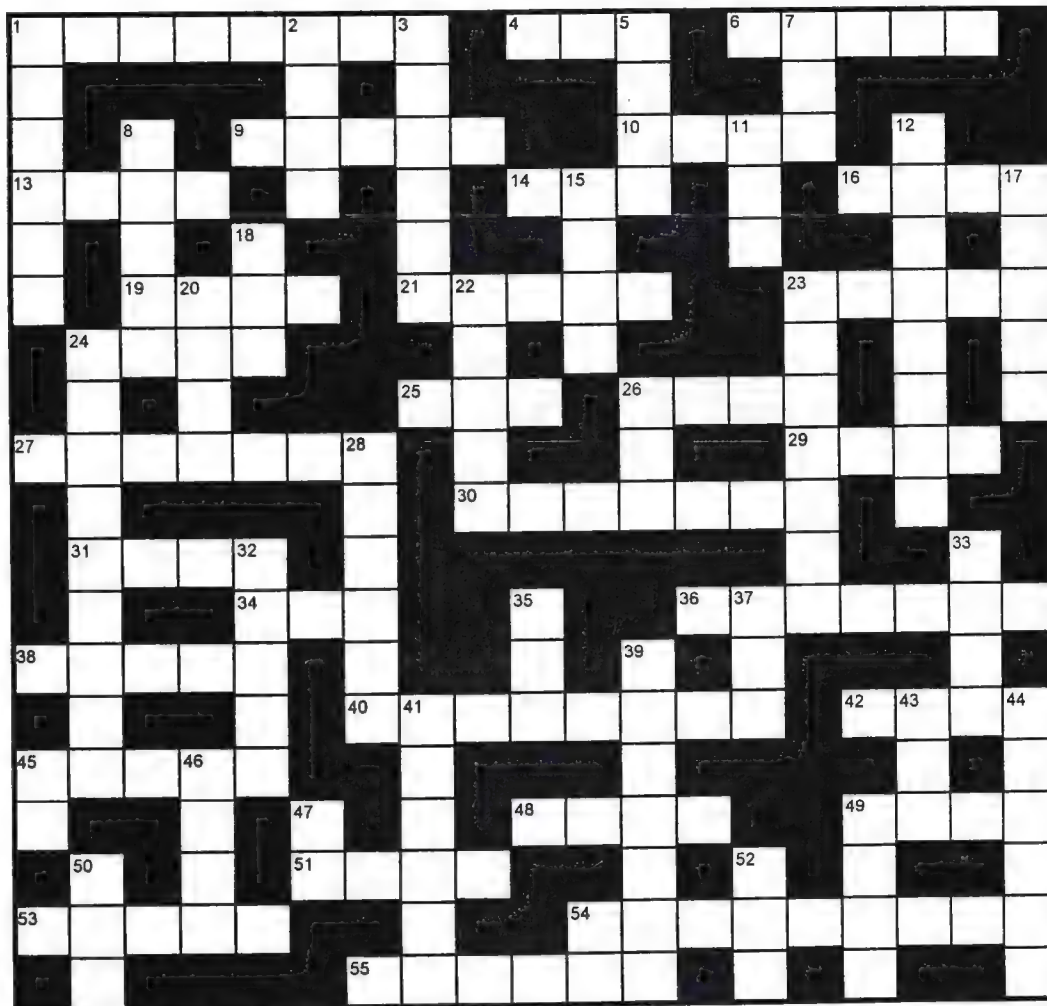
BY DAVID HENCH

ACROSS

1. Champion's jewelry
4. 1993 WSOP champ,
Mr. Bechtel
6. 1992 champ,
Mr. Dastmalchi
9. Keller and Straus
10. Giveaway move
13. Top hand, "The
_____"
14. "It's on you, your turn to
_____"
16. Call two or more bets at
once
19. Your turn to shoot in golf
when you're this
21. Hans and "Sorry Charlie"
23. Binion patriarch and
WSOP founder
24. Amarillo, 1972 champ
25. You must be at least 21
years of _____ to enter
26. "Shuffle up and _____"
27. Broadway, Fremont and
3rd thru 7th
29. Rake
30. Offsuit flop or hand
31. High roller's airport ride
34. No. 1 ISP for cyber poker
36. 1990 champ,
Mr. Matloubi
38. Smith and Boyd
40. Kibitzer
42. Tip
45. 23-across home state
48. Hidden, or _____ cards
49. "_____ for the odd chips"
51. 1989 champ, _____ Hellmuth
53. "Over the top"
54. "Hospitality Central" (WSOP host
hotel)
55. 1998 champ, Scotty _____

DOWN

1. They keep going up, and they're not
venetian
2. Ahead, has the chip _____
3. "Split it or _____"
(2 words)
5. Hand (slang), or a catcher's _____



SOLUTION ON PAGE 110

7. All my chips, or _____-in
8. Bluff
11. High-_____
12. 1986 champ, Berry _____
15. Back-to-back WSOP champ,
1987 and 1988
17. Hand after winning hand, or 1976
and 1977 champ
18. Ram and _____
20. Nipped at the _____
22. "The Kid," three-time champ
23. Tulsa Bobby, 1978 champ
24. Entry tourney
26. 1995 champ, Mr. Harrington
28. Navy soldier, or the 1975 champ
32. Desert relief spot

33. 1996 champ, or Tom Sawyer's pal
35. 1979 champ, Mr. Fowler
37. _____-on, last optional rebuy
39. A cool _____ to the
World Champ
41. "Hollywood" job
43. "_____ rush" (2 words)
44. Eeyo this
45. Mr. Cloutier
46. Beats kings
47. Two-handed, or heads-_____
49. 1994 champ, Mr. Hamilton
50. Championship event month
52. "Who's it on? Funny you should
_____"
54. "_____ said, she said"

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2 OMAHA HI/LO SPLIT Saturday, June 12 • 2:30pm \$330 • NO REBUYS	8 LIMIT HOLD'EM Friday, June 18 • 6:30pm \$330 • 1 OPTIONAL REBUY	14 7 CARD STUD HI/LO SPLIT Thursday, June 24 • 6:30pm \$330 • 1 OPTIONAL REBUY
3 LIMIT HOLD'EM SHOOTOUT Sunday, June 13 • 2:30pm \$330 • NO REBUYS	9 OMAHA HI/LO SPLIT Saturday, June 19 • 2:30pm \$330 • NO REBUYS	15 NO LIMIT HOLD'EM CHAMPIONSHIP Friday, June 25 • 6:30pm \$1,060 • NO REBUYS
4 7 CARD STUD Monday, June 14 • 6:30pm \$330 • NO REBUYS	10 LIMIT HOLD'EM SHOOTOUT Sunday, June 20 • 2:30pm \$330 • NO REBUYS	16 OMAHA HI/LO SPLIT Saturday, June 26 • 2:30pm \$330 • 1 OPTIONAL REBUY
5 NO LIMIT HOLD'EM Tuesday, June 15 • 6:30pm \$330 • NO REBUYS	11 7 CARD STUD Monday, June 21 • 6:30pm \$330 • 1 OPTIONAL REBUY	17 LIMIT HOLD'EM Sunday, June 27 • 2:30pm \$330 • REBUYS FIRST 3 LEVELS
6 POT LIMIT HOLD'EM Wednesday, June 16 • 6:30pm \$330 • NO REBUYS	12 NO LIMIT HOLD'EM Tuesday, June 22 • 6:30pm \$330 • 1 OPTIONAL REBUY	\$100,000 Guaranteed

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When I began this glossary of only the most common terms that you'd be likely to hear in a low-limit poker game, I thought that it would take a couple of pages at most. As I began compiling the list of terms, it kept growing! It now is more understandable to me why a novice may think that poker players seem to be speaking a foreign language. It is like any business or hobby, I guess — there's lots of jargon. There is no need to memorize these listings of words. Just read through them so that they are a bit familiar to you, then when you hear someone speak the language, you will be hearing words with which you are at least familiar. They will become second nature to you very quickly. Here are some more terms for you to ponder:

Facecard — a jack, queen, or king; also called a paint

Family pot — a hand played by all of the players at the table

Fast game — a game with lots of betting and raising, lots of action

Fifth street — in stud, the fifth card to each player; in flop games, the last or river card

Filet — slang for full house

Poker 101

By Jan Fisher

Fill up — to complete a hand by making a full house

Filly — slang for full house

Flash — to expose your holecards, either accidentally or on purpose

Floorperson — a supervisor who, among other duties, handles disputes at the table

Flop — in hold'em and Omaha games, the three cards simultaneously turned up in the center as community cards; the first three center upcards after the first round of betting

Flop a set — to make three of a kind with the first three community cards

Flush — five suited cards; also, having lots of money

Fold — to throw away your hand; having no further interest in the pot

Forced bet — a mandatory bet to start the action; in stud, it's the low card by suit; in flop games, it's a blind

Fouled hand — a dead hand; a hand that has come into contact with the muck and/or discards, contains the wrong number of cards,

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contains a card that has been dropped on the floor, and so on. This hand is ineligible to win the pot, and a floorperson has the discretion to call a hand dead.

Four-flush — four suited cards

Fourth street — in stud, the fourth card to each player; in flop games, the fourth or turn card, the first card after the flop

Free card — a card that is received as a result of no bet by anyone on a particular round, giving those in the pot the next card without having to pay off a bet

Freeroll — a hand, usually in flop games, in which players are tied and should split the pot, but one has a redraw to claim the entire pot

Full boat — full house

George — generous or very good

Getting your hand cracked — getting beaten, usually by a hand coming from behind and outdrawing you

Give action — gamble knowingly

Grind it out — to play a low-limit, very solid game with not a lot of gamble

Gutshot — inside card to a straight

Heads up — two players in the pot or game

Heart — courage, fortitude

Help a hand — to improve a holding on the draw

Here to there — a straight, five cards in numerical sequence

Hidden pair — downcards containing two of the same rank

Hidden trips — downcards containing three of the same rank, or a concealed pair matching one of the upcards

Hit your kicker — to catch a card that is the same rank as your side or nonpaired card

Hogger — a pot that is scooped in high-low; the entire pot is won in a split game

Holecards — facedown cards

Hook — jack

H.O.R.S.E. — a poker game that rotates five different games: hold'em, Omaha high-low, razz, stud, and stud high-low split eight-or-better

Horse — one who's been staked to play

Hot — catching good cards and running well; also, angry or mad

Human card rack — an individual who seems to run lucky, always catching better than average cards

Idiot end (of a straight) — in flop games, the low end of a possible straight on board

Immortal nuts — an unbeatable hand in a given situation; a lock

"I'll wait" — the same as "I'll check"; not wishing to make a bet

Jack it up — raise the pot

Jackpot poker — a bad-beat giveaway in which a bonus is paid in some houses by a player-funded prize pool for extremely rare hand-over-hand situations

Jam-up game — an action game, one with lots of betting and raising

Jam-up person — a good guy

Juice — rake or vig(orish); the cost to play

This glossary will be continued in the next several articles. In the meantime, write or fax me with any questions that you may have on any terms that you don't understand and would like to have explained. Also, I'm interested in your experiences while playing poker. If I get some unusual stories that would be of general interest, I'll include them in my article. In the meantime, keep on playing. ♦

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Blackjack

Arnold "The Bishop" Snyder

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of play.

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dealer cards. It takes all of the guessing out of the game. To compensate, a blackjack pays even money, and all

Continued on page 110

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or
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THE INTERNET GAMBLER

Art Santella



Walking on Your Blind, or — Cheap Bathroom Tricks

I am sure that if you play stud, you sometimes are annoyed by the "walkers," those players who play a hand then disappear and miraculously return just before their chips are going to be picked up and bagged. They seem to suddenly appear out of nowhere, play another hand or two, then pull the same stunt all over again. In hold'em, because a small blind and a big blind are used, it is not quite as simple as just leaving at any time. There are angle shooters who time their disappearing acts just before their blinds and don't return until they can jump in just behind the button, post, and be in good position. Now, this is not a big deal, right? It is if you are short-handed and it's done continuously for an advantage, and, heaven forbid, by more than one player in the game. Let's take a look at the r.g.p. post that started this discussion.

From droakland@ — "At what time, if any, is it more profitable to post the big blind and small blind together at the right of the button rather than playing the blind hands in the normal way? In other words, can you ever make money by taking a bathroom break when it is your turn for the blinds? At the very least, if you're going to be away for two hands in a full game, I would contend that the best time to do this is during the blinds, and then post when you come back. Comments?"

From psbcgpr@ — If you post after the button, you suffer two significant disadvantages. First, the small blind money is "dead," and is not considered to be part of your bet. Thus, you are paying an extra

small blind into a pot for which you get no reciprocal action. Second, you miss playing the button. Thus, if you skip your blinds and post after the button, you are paying as much for that round as anyone else, and you are missing the opportunity to play three hands (the big blind, the small blind, and the button). The normal cost of playing in a \$3-\$6 game with blinds of \$1 and \$3 is \$4 per round, which is 44 cents per hand (ninehanded). If you skip the blinds and post after the button, it is still \$4 per round, but it costs you 67 cents per hand (and \$1 of that money is dead). If I am going to skip exactly two hands on a bathroom break, I will skip the last two hands before the big blind. I paid a total of 89 cents for those two hands but that's cheaper than putting up \$1 of dead money plus the cost of missing the button.

From minus200@ — Position, position, position! You are in the pot with the best position to raise or fold to a raise, so why leave now? Play your blinds, and leave in first, second, or third position, where more money is lost than in any other spot.

From hittheflop@ — Your choice is my choice if I must miss two hands. The added value of posting a blind with good position almost makes up for the added cost. I've had my share of trouble with that cheap call in the small blind, and it may save me some pain if there is no temptation to play it.

Arti's opinions — Well, gang, I have a few things to say on this topic. First, in hold'em, I don't leave unless I really hear nature's call, and if that means that I have to leave on the button, that's when I leave.

In stud, if I find myself leaving the table and walking around, I will ask myself why, and I usually will come up with the following:

1. The game is bad, and I am subconsciously looking for a better one.
2. The game is boring me to death.
3. Something or someone in the game is annoying me.
4. I am taking a beating and know that I am not playing my best game.
5. I really, really have to go.

I play Omaha high-low, and you don't see a lot of disappearing acts in that game. Players usually will call the floorperson and tell him to put a time ticket on the missing player and pick him up as soon as possible. I have been in games in which some of the players tried to have me picked up and I was gone for just five minutes (I happened to be winning). When I returned, I asked them what the rush was, as there was no list and I only missed a few hands. You don't get away with the long vacations in Omaha like you might in stud, at least not with the tough bunch against whom I play. Now, I set the timer on my watch when I leave the table so that I know exactly how long I am gone and have something to back my argument. When I get into these situations, I usually say to myself, "Are we having fun yet?" Hopefully, the answer is yes.

Thanks to the contributors to r.g.p. who formed the foundation for this column. ♦

Feedback to arti.s@snet.net which also will accept voice E-mail; fax: (203) 853-4027.

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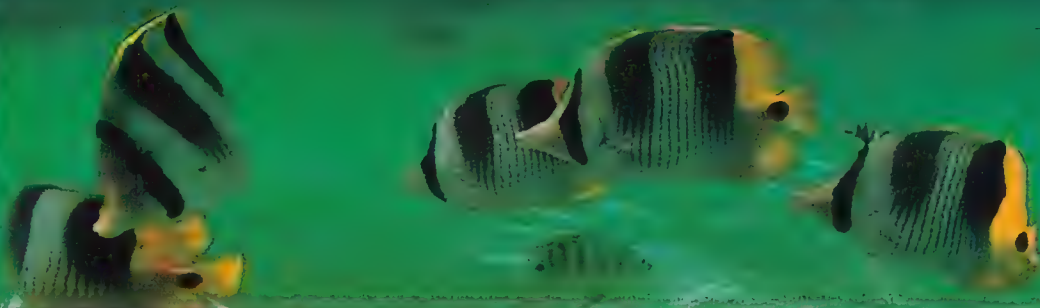
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MIKE CARO "AMERICA'S MAD GENIUS" ON POKER

Continued from page 10

4. Hold'em raising preflop.

Before the flop in hold'em, most players raise too often. This is not just guesswork, but a viewpoint that I've formed after studying hold'em opponents for many years and comparing what they do to the ideal strategies that I've devised through computer research and other analysis.

I believe that you often should just call and see what develops. Since most of a hold'em hand blossoms on the flop, you really aren't usually raising with the advantage that you assume. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't be very aggressive in shorthanded games and when attacking the blinds from late positions when no one else has entered the pot. But it does mean that in full and nearly full games, there are many times when you should opt to just call before the flop, rather than raise.

Also, for a different reason, in seven-card stud, it's better to just call with self-disguising small "rolled-up" trips. If I start with 5-5-5 with a king and a queen waiting to act behind me, I'll usually just call. Raising looks suspicious and makes players think that I might have greater than a pair of fives. If I just call, I'm likely to be called or even raised by weak hands that might otherwise have folded. With rolled-up three of a kind, do what would look most natural to your opponents who are seeing only your upcard. If that upcard is high relative to other exposed cards, your raise will look natural and opponents will not even think that you necessarily have a pair. In that case, you usually should raise. But, with a small three of a kind to start, you seldom should raise.

5. When opponents are deceptive. One of the biggest mistakes in poker is routinely raising with marginal hands against deceptive foes. Since a raise with a marginal hand is a borderline decision that won't earn much extra profit — on average — even in ideal situations, it often will lose money against deceptive opponents. How

come? It's because those opponents won't behave. You can't count on them to just call with stronger-than-average hands. Instead, they are likely to get full value by raising with their marginally strong hands, and they occasionally may even be bluffing. These possibilities often can remove all of the value and more out of that "value raise."

Also, don't raise in middle position on the last round with anything except a very strong hand or a bluff. You'll make more by just calling and giving the next player a chance to overcall. This advice isn't obvious, but it's the answer. Research proves that middle-position raises, in most common situations on the final betting rounds, seldom should be made with hands of secondary strength. Save these raises for very powerful hands or for occasional bluffs.

6. When to steal blinds. If the "blind" players are aggressive and unpredictable, abandon most blind stealing. The best types of opponents to steal against are those who are tight and timid. Always remind yourself of that before you barge into the pot with your precious chips.

7. Handling a bluffer. Don't raise with strong hands on an early betting round against a frequent bluffer. Let him continue to bluff. This strategy sometimes can work against you, but overall, you'll make more money if you allow your opponent to exercise his most glaring weakness — in this case, bluffing too much.

8. Wrong people to raise. Don't chase away your profit by making daring raises against solid players when weak players remain to act after you. When you do this, you are just chasing out the wrong people. One concept of poker that is seldom talked about is that you should be *much* more willing to raise when a loose player has bet and tight players remain to act behind you than when a tight player has bet and loose players remain to act behind you. The reason is that you'd often like to be able to chase others out and face only the loose bettor. But you seldom want to chase the loose players out and face only the tight player.

9. What if you're losing? One of the most important lessons is to stop "value raising" when you're losing. These daring bets for extra profit work *only* when your opponents are intimidated. When opponents see that you're losing, they're inspired and become more daring and deceptive. And as we discussed in point No. 5, you definitely do not want to be making marginal raises against deceptive foes.

There is a lot more to the science of raising, but you'll be on the path to mastering it if you always make sure that you have a *reason* before you raise. ♦

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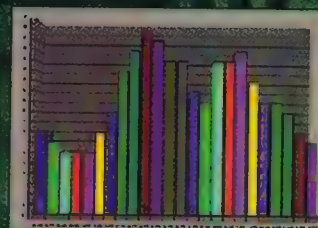
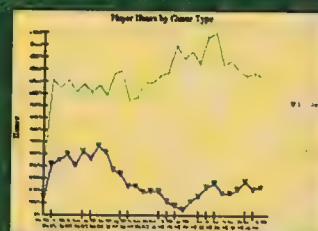
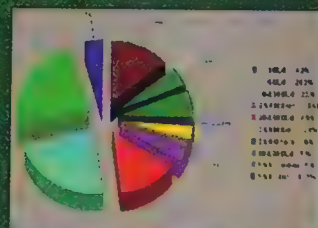


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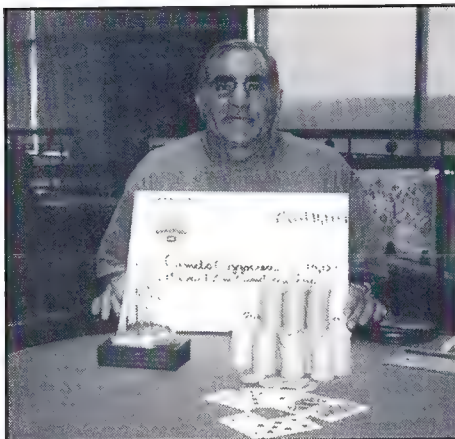


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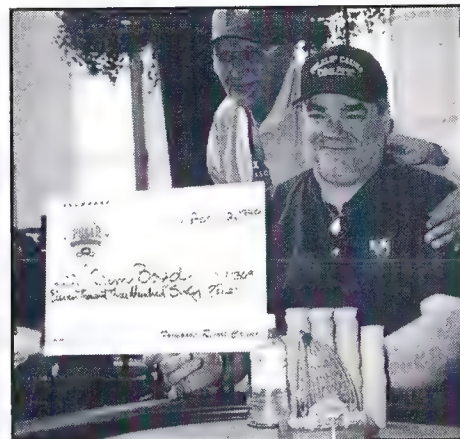
NEW ENGLAND POKER CLASSIC



Satish Vitha



Carmelo Cozzocrea



Jim Boyd

More of the same ... Previous winners who repeated their feats at this year's *New England Poker Classic* included Jim Boyd, the self-effacing, self-proclaimed country boy and touring pro from Martinsburg, West Virginia, who always seems to do well at Foxwoods; Alan Miller, a regular at Foxwoods tournaments from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and Will Noyes. Noyes, a retired physician who travels the tournament circuit with his brother Tom, had a great tournament with a win in the \$100 seven-card stud (rebuys) event and two third-place finishes in \$200 seven-card stud high-low split and \$300 seven-card stud.

Bonuses paid ... Besides winning first-place prize money in their respective events, Satish Vitha, Tony Tucciarone, Michael Deveronica, and Andy Latto all won a

\$2,500 cash bonus to use as the buy-in and spending money for the *Tournament of Champions* July 26-28 in Las Vegas. According to Tournament Director Mike Ward, Mike Sexton's *TOC*, "... deserves the support of the industry." Foxwoods added the money in lieu of the best overall player award.

Lou Avitabile was concerned ... The winner of two stud events at the *World Poker Finals '98*, "Lightning" Lou Avitabile had not cashed yet at this year's *New England Poker Classic* at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard, Connecticut. "What could I be doing wrong?" he wondered aloud as he waited for the start of the \$300 limit hold'em event, the last event of the 11-day tournament. In December, he had shown *World Poker Finals* tournament players how the game of poker is played with a tremendous display of aggressiveness, bravado, and basic skills that kept the favorites on tilt at the final tables of the two events that he won. Proving that his wins were not merely flukes, the South Boston native — father of six, and Army veteran — not to be denied, cashed for \$6,707 by taking third place in the hold'em event.

Congratulations ... are in order to the 2,379 tournament players who competed for \$542,500 in total prize money. As always, the Foxwoods staff did a superb job of organizing, operating, and officiating what has become a New England tradition. Results were as follows:

\$200 no-limit hold'em (rebuys)

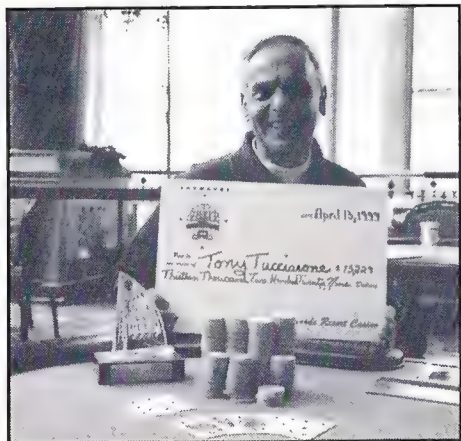
Entrants: 190 • Prize pool: \$94,400

1. Satish Vitha \$29,738
2. Peter Alson 20,296
3. Greg Reymer 11,659
4. Peter Mott 6,608
5. Mike Sukonik 4,720
6. Bob Walker 3,776
7. Stefano Berio 2,833
8. Jeff Albert 1,889
9. Todd Bourgault 1,417

\$100 seven-card stud

Entrants: 504 • Prize pool: \$50,400

1. Carmelo Cozzocrea \$15,123
2. Mickey Sisskind 8,873
3. Arthur Weisleder 5,042
4. Ken Frye 3,026
5. Diane Spurno 2,522
6. Bill Seymour 2,018



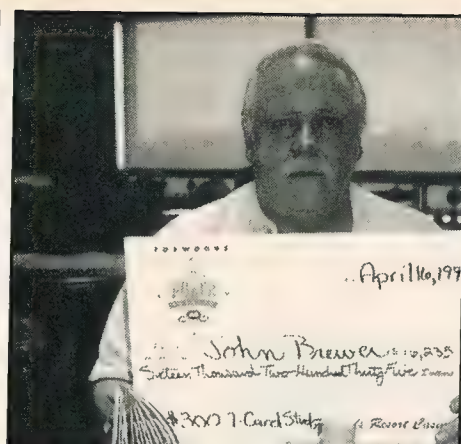
Tony Tucciarone



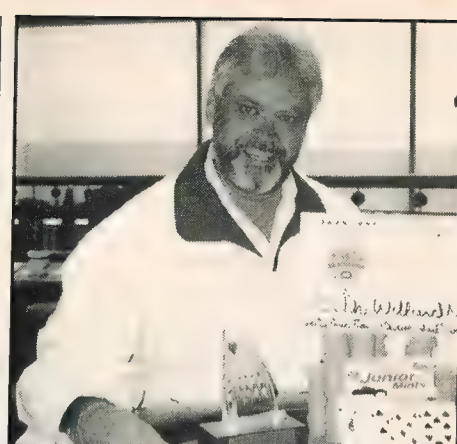
Jeff Calkins



Mike Deveronica



John Brewer



Will Noyes

7. Dale Kendall 1,514
8. Phil Gagliano 1,010

\$100 limit hold'em

Entrants: 390 • Prize pool: \$39,000

1. Jim Boyd \$11,369
2. Henry Olszewski 7,410
3. Mike Manvell 4,390
4. Steve Daniel 2,340
5. Chris Tspirailidis 1,950
6. Bill Brennan 1,561
7. Fred Morin 1,171
8. Nolan Dalla 781
9. Jim Carmody 586

\$200 seven-card stud high-low split

Entrants: 203 • Prize pool: \$40,600

1. Tony Tucciarone \$13,229
2. Mike Applin 8,736
3. Will Noyes 4,992
4. Alan Pearlman 2,496
5. Judith Green 2,080
6. Rich Ohmann 1,665
7. Ray Verna 1,249
8. Phil Bolebaugh 833

\$200 seven-card stud

Entrants: 212 • Prize pool: \$42,400

1. Jeff Calkins \$13,485
2. Al Walter 8,485
3. George Kraynak 5,090
4. Mike Deveronica 2,546
5. Dana Jacobson 2,122
6. Steen Rassow 1,697
7. John Malley 1,273
8. Terry Stegner 849

\$200 Omaha high-low split

Entrants: 162 • Prize pool: \$32,400

1. Mike Deveronica \$10,206
2. Mike Keohan 6,966
3. Pete Seymour 4,002
4. Per Weslien 2,268
5. Stefano Berio 1,620
6. Dan Lacombe 1,296
7. John Ward 973
8. John Urpsis 649
9. Steve Foley 487

\$300 seven-card stud

Entrants: 163 • Prize pool: \$48,900

1. John Brewer \$16,235
2. Tony Criniti 11,247
3. Will Noyes 6,357
4. Jim Kinsey 2,934
5. Boris Alic 2,445
6. Alan Wood 1,956
7. John Urpsis 1,467
8. Mike Sigel 979

\$100 seven-card stud

(rebuys)

Entrants: 243 • Prize pool: \$74,600

1. Will Noyes \$23,723
2. Ray DiDonato 15,666
3. Terry Stegner 8,952
4. George Thompson 4,476
5. Steve Delborrell 3,730
6. Bill Tracy 2,985

7. Dale Richardson 2,239
8. Andrew DeFrancesco 1,493

\$500 seven-card stud

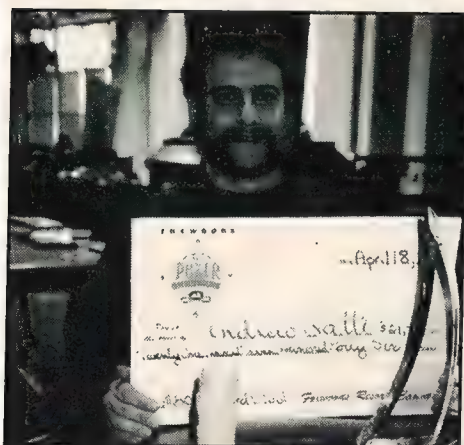
Entrants: 131 • Prize pool: \$65,500

1. Andy Latto \$21,746
2. Peter Brownstein 15,065
3. James Ditchik 8,515
4. Harold Weiner 3,930
5. James Kinsey 3,275
6. Charles Gudaitis 2,620
7. Peter Giordano 1,966
8. Boris Alic 1,311

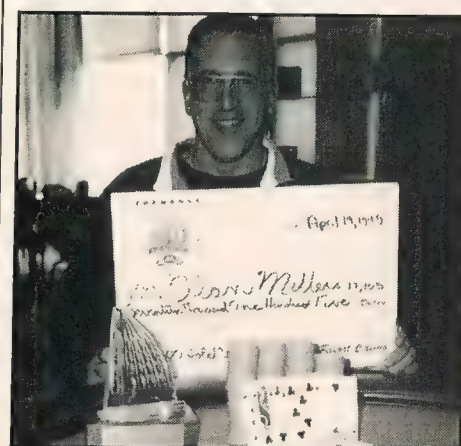
\$300 limit hold'em

Entrants: 181 • Prize pool: \$54,300

1. Alan Miller \$17,105
2. Jo Jo Curti 11,674
3. Louis Avitabile 6,707
4. Stephen Daniel 3,801
5. Robey Rossi 2,715
6. Helen Spooner 2,172
7. Dan Medeiros 1,629
8. Frank Sordi 1,086
9. John Ziogas 814



Andy Latto



Alan Miller

Continued from page 72

opportunity to qualify for an additional payday. This is in the form of a *Bonus Round* tournament that is held at the end of the special series, with the Oaks putting up cash and paid entries into selected *World Series of Poker* hold'em events.

This year, the tournaments ran 12 weeks, from January to April. The events featured a \$100 buy-in with one \$100 rebuy. Each week's prize pool was usually between \$8,000 and \$10,000, and the top three finishers from each event qualified for the *Bonus Round*. The Oaks also awarded an entry to the *Bonus Round* to any player who played in a minimum of 10 of the events.

The *Bonus Round* was held recently for the 28 players who qualified for this special event. This year, the *Bonus Round* featured \$15,000 in grand prizes. Players finishing fifth through 10th split \$2,000 in cash, and the top four finishers, in addition to prize money, received entries worth \$12,000 to *WSOP* hold'em events or cash payoffs if they so desired. At the end of the day, the remaining four players called a halt to play. They all agreed to take the money and split the \$12,000 among themselves based on their approximate chip count at the end of play.

Results of the *Bonus Round* were as follows:

1. Vince Stornainolo .. \$4,030
2. B. Ali Sen 3,370
3. Gary Smith 2,800
4. L.K. Tran 2,800
5. Jack Em 500
6. Bruce Aveilla 350
7. Hamid Barandeh 350

8. Dieter Tuerpe 350
9. Howard "Tahoe" Andrew . 250
10. Steve Landrum 200



Vince Stornainolo



New England News

By BOB DELISLE

Breaking ground — in more ways than one ... The Mohegan Tribe, owners of the Mohegan Sun Casino, broke new ground when they first went to Wall Street in 1995 to raise money to help finance their new casino venture. Four years later, they went back for more, easily raising \$925 million to fund expansion of the casino and retire old debt. Demand for the bonds that were issued was so great that the interest rate was lowered to reflect the confidence that investors have in the tribe and their casino. With the financ-

ing in place, construction has begun with groundbreaking in several spots simultaneously on the casino property. The planned expansion includes an additional 100,000 square feet of gaming space, a 1,500-room luxury hotel, a 10,000-seat event center, a 100,000-square-foot convention center, and 300,000 square feet of retail space.

Bad beat ... Is it a bad beat if the bad-beat jackpot refuses to be hit? At Foxwoods, neither the Omaha nor hold'em jackpot has been hit since being established in March. Worth \$5,100 each, the two are up for grabs as of April 25, 1999. To win in hold'em, aces full of jacks must be beaten, and both hands must use both downcards. In Omaha, four jacks have to be beaten.

Now, that's an improvement ... It's official. The Mohegan Sun poker room is undergoing renovations that, when complete, will leave the sound of music outside the room where, in the opinion of many players, it belongs. After months of planning, the room will be separated from the rest of the casino by a glass and marble wall. A temporary wall to contain the construction is in place until the project is completed. Along with the enclosure, a new podium is being built to replace the temporary structure that was built when the room was first opened. The price tag of the monthlong project is expected to exceed \$500,000.

One hand washes another ... Poker players are known for taking advantage of the finest of edges, so it should

come as no surprise that when Mohegan Sun regular poker player Alan Pearlman was approached by Mohegan Sun dealer/floorperson JoJo Tempesta to sponsor him in the *Montville Little League Walk-a-Thon*, Pearlman saw an edge. He asked Tempesta to find a computer to donate to Pearlman's favorite charity where he does volunteer work, the Katie Blair House of Norwich, Connecticut, in return for the donation. Tempesta, the proud father of a future major leaguer, and willing to do what he could for his son's baseball team, thought for a moment then agreed. It didn't have to be anything special, Pearlman counseled, just something that the former homeless women in the transitional house could use to prepare themselves for the self-sufficiency that is the goal of the organization that houses them. "Something with a word processor and printer would be fine," said Pearlman, the dean of Mohegan Sun's \$15-\$30 stud high-low game. It was a tall order, but Tempesta came through with an Apple II that a friend was ready to replace with a newer machine.

Here's a tip ... New England poker players love their tournaments, as evidenced by the seven-day-a-week schedule at both major poker rooms. It's good for the players, as it gives them a shot at big money for a small buy-in, and it benefits the casinos by bringing in new players and introducing them to different games. Everyone is happy — except the dealers, who have to depend on tips for a large

part of their income. It seems that the tournament players are forgetting to take after they cash in, leaving the dealers reluctant to have to work these very popular events. So here's a tip — tip!



Reno-Tahoe Report

BY SUSIE ISAACS

Circus Circus Spring Poker Tournament ... The Circus Circus Ladies Spring Championship was for years the grand finale of the Circus Circus spring series of poker tournaments. This year, Cardroom Manager Penny Hubbell changed the agenda and began the tournament with the ladies event.

According to Hubbell, the biannual event is held in appreciation of the poker room's longtime lady players. The tournament is extremely popular with many players from around the country, so much so that two players made extreme efforts to attend. Kathi Garland from Parker, Colorado, flew in all the way from Paris, and

former champion Judy Corallo from Ashland, Oregon, squeezed in the event prior to a trip to Israel.

Results of the Circus Circus Spring Tournament were as follows:



Sue Byrd

Ladies Spring Championship Entrants: 76

Prize pool: \$12,375

1. Sue Byrd \$3,800
2. Char Henningsen 3,600
3. Patricia Schwindt 1,856
4. Kathi Garland 1,237
5. Genrose Neff 866
6. Charlie Sexton 495
7. Lona Auferoth 273
8. Kay Abrahamson 248

Seven-card stud Entrants: 36

Prize pool: \$5,300

1. Peggy Boss \$1,135
2. Tony Lavorato 1,125
3. Dennis Derge 1,125
4. Sue Byrd 1,125

5. Judy Hooks 360
6. Nilly Premrajh 210
7. Chuck Frank 110
8. Connie Lewis 110

Hold'em

Entrants: 40

Prize pool: \$6,635

1. James D'orso \$2,380
2. June Villaruel 1,320
3. Natalie Puga 990
4. Ron Lyon 660
5. Don Putman 330
6. Ron Tarman 265
7. Mary Riley 200
8. Dennis Derge 200
9. Scott Walker 145
10. Rico Robles 145

Hyatt Regency Classy

Ladies results ... Hyatt Regency Cardroom Manager Dan Madding stated, "This was one of our smallest tournaments in recent years, but one of our biggest ever in terms of fun and renewed old friendships among our classy ladies that have been developed over years of friendly competition."

"One of our best local players, Patty Pfeill — who, incidentally, first played casino poker here at the Hyatt in Lake Tahoe — won the championship and shared the doubles title with another of our local favorites, Sara Jane Creech. Patty plans to play in the ladies event of the *World Series of Poker* with her winnings, and if she wins the *World Series*, she plans to dedicate that win to the *Classy Ladies* tournament. She has become quite the tournament

player in just the past few years.

"Patty's partner, Sara, literally clawed her way up from an all-in eighth place situation to capture third place in the championship.

"Myrle Snyder, another perennial favorite with both the players and dealers, fought to a fourth-place finish in the stud championship and finished second in the doubles."

Results of the Hyatt *Classy Ladies* tournament were as follows:



Patty Pfeill

Seven-card stud (rebuys)

Entrants: 12

Prize pool: \$2,800

1. Patty Pfeill \$1,260
2. Amelia Richardson 700
3. Sarah Jane Creech 420
4. Myrle Snyder 280
5. Lorraine Arms 140

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Ladies doubles
Entrants: 6 teams
Prize pool: \$1,200

1. Patty Pfeill &
 Sara Jane Creech \$720
2. Myrle Snyder &
 Judy Sarris 480



**Sara Jane Creech (left)
 and Patty Pfeill**

Get crazy at the Hyatt Regency ... The Hyatt Regency soon will be hosting the "crazies." Yes, it's once again time for the *Crazy Pineapple High-Low Split Spring Tournament* May 14-16.

Tune up your game on May 14 at 3 p.m. in the \$55 event. This is the longest continuously running weekly poker tournament in the world. On May 15, the main event, the *Crazy Pineapple Spring Championship*, will commence at 11 a.m. Doubles is the name of the game on May 16. Two-person teams will alternate play with limit changes, and one team will become the 1999 crazy pineapple high-low split team champion.

For more information, see the Hyatt Regency ad on page 14.

COPS converge on Boomtown ... Boomtown Hotel and Casino recently was surrounded by law enforcement officials from various areas — they were handling a routine call that a different

type of poker tournament was happening. The officials on the scene, both active and inactive, were there to play in the Boomtown poker room for a great cause — Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS).



Mills Lane

The famous Judge Mills Lane not only hosted the tournament, he took first place in the seven-card stud event. Lane, known for his great demeanor and Southern sense of humor, split the winnings with Steve Baptiste of Reno. Lane won \$1,053 and Baptiste pocketed \$1,052. Both received trophies. Third place in the seven-card stud event went to Mario Casa of Irvine, California, who also



Dave Clifton

received a trophy and \$490 cash.

During the Texas hold'em tournament, Reno's Chief Deputy District Attorney Dave Clifton captured first place, winning a trophy and \$1,395. Jerry Fiske of Fallon, Nevada, finished second and third place went to Bob Orman of Reno; they decided to split the winnings and took home \$700 each. Orman was the only tournament participant to be one of the final four players in both events.

The national COPS program was organized on May 14, 1984, by a unanimous vote of more than 100 law enforcement survivors who were attending a "grief seminar" during National Police Week. Since then, the COPS program has grown to almost 8,000 surviving families nationwide. Counseling for individuals, scholarships for surviving children, and various other beneficial programs are a few of the services the COPS program provides to meet the ever-increasing numbers of law enforcement survivors.

Boomtown donated 10 percent of the prize fund, the \$25 registration fee, and 75 cents of every pot of \$20 or more during live-action play to the COPS charity.

Coming soon: Reno Hilton's Pot of Gold ... The Reno Hilton has added a day to its summer *Pot of Gold* poker tournament; June 12 has been christened "Poker Cruise Saturday" (win a *Card Player* poker cruise) and also will feature the *Make-A-Wish Doubles Tournament* for charity.

The *Pot of Gold* will run June 3-12 with action in limit hold'em, no-limit hold'em, seven-card stud, and Omaha

high-low. Buy-ins will range from \$120 to \$330. On June 3, supersatellites will be offered for the first time in *Pot of Gold* history. The winners will receive buy-ins and rebuys (no event has more than one rebuy) for all events. If the winners cannot or do not wish to play in all eight events, their buy-ins are transferable or salable.

Card Player extends best wishes for success to new Cardroom Manager Mike Gainey. Gainey has been in the poker business for many years and is dedicated to continuing the ever-growing poker promotions and tournaments at the Reno Hilton.



Vegas News and Views

By STEVE RADULOVICH

Sunset Station ... The *Morning Money in May* promotion currently is in effect through May 21. Each day, the first 10 players entering any live-action game from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. receive \$110 in chips for a \$100 buy-in.

Two no buy-in tournaments will be held in May. The first 60 players to log 15 hours of live-action play from May 3 to May 12 will qualify for a \$2,500 hold'em tournament on Thursday, May 13 at noon.

Additionally, the first 60 players to log 15 hours of live-action play from May 17 to May 26 will qualify for a

\$2,500 hold'em tournament on Thursday, May 27 at noon.

Sam's Town ... Final-table results of the most recent \$7,500 no buy-in no-limit hold'em tournament were as follows (in addition to prize money, the top three finishers won a seat in the *Sam Boyd Poker Classic* in November):

1. Marcel Dumont \$1,200
..... + \$540 seat
2. Mario Aceti 800
..... + \$230 seat
3. Barney Avila 700
..... + \$230 seat
4. Helen Rybacek 550
5. Carl Peterson 500
6. Dennis Boissonneault 400
7. Phil Baron 300
8. George Paukert 200
9. Ted Cecil 150

These players and 18 others won \$100 by making the final table at the preliminary sessions.

The next \$15,000 *Players Choice* poker tournament will be held on June 2. There is no buy-in, and to qualify, players must log 40 hours of live-action play during the month of May. Players have the choice of playing either hold'em or stud. The tournament will pay 38 places, and the top nine finishers will win a seat in the *Sam Boyd Poker Classic* in addition to their prize money.

Beginning June 8, the poker room will host *Card Player* Alaskan cruise satellite tournaments on three Tuesday nights in June. The winner of each satellite will receive a cabin for two on the cruise, a value of more than \$2,000. In addition, seats will be given away for the *Sam Boyd Poker Classic*.

Binion's Horseshoe ...

The *World Series of Poker* is in full swing. The 16-event "Granddaddy of Poker" will conclude with the \$10,000

buy-in no-limit hold'em world championship, which will take place May 10-13.

On Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day), Michael Konik, author of the best-selling *The Man With the \$100,000 Breasts and Other Gambling Stories*, will autograph copies of his book from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. in the WSOP tournament area.

The Man With the \$100,000 Breasts and Other Gambling Stories contains 26 true stories about colorful characters from the world of gambling, including former world champions Phil Hellmuth, Huck Seed, and Johnny Moss. It can be ordered from *Card Player*.

The Mirage ... The *Poker Zone* tournaments, which feature action in limit and no-limit hold'em, seven-card stud, and Omaha high-low split at buy-ins of \$125, \$225, and \$325, are sparking a lot of interest on the tournament trail. These tournaments take place Sunday through Thursday.

Recent *Poker Zone* tournament winners include Mike Minor (no-limit hold'em), Tri-alfa Omega (seven-card stud), Maureen Feduniak (no-limit hold'em), Paul Kroh (limit hold'em), Joe Macchiaverna (Omaha high-low split), Dave Berenson (limit hold'em), Jeff Barron (no-limit hold'em), Michael Sigel (seven-card stud), Dick Woodson (no-limit hold'em), and Mike Marzouq (limit hold'em).

Santa Fe ... The \$2-\$10 hold'em game now is being played with a kill. Additionally, the poker room now is spreading \$1-\$4 seven-card razz.

Tournaments now are being held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 5 p.m. See the Tournament Trail for details.

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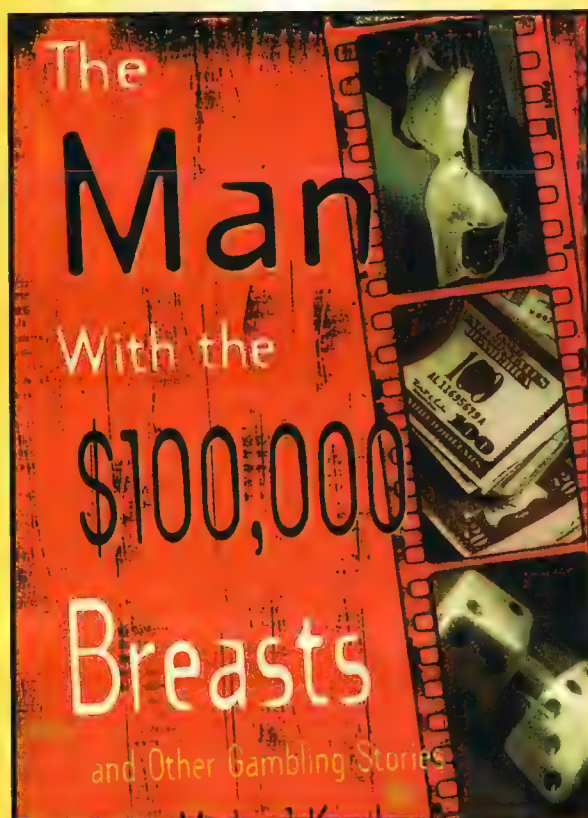
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ODDS AND ENDS

Continued from page 62

Consequently, we can offer the following two pieces of advice: First, if a suited hand has no straight draw involving both cards, play only A-X suited and K-X suited. The A-X suited will have no flush losses to other hands that make flushes because they are suited, or because the fourth of the suit appears on the board. The K-X hand will have some losses, particularly when a fourth of the suit appears on the board, because any player with the ace in the suit will be tempted to at least call until there are four of the suit on the board. The A-X and K-X hands offer fair ability to win pots with high pair and two pair hands, in addition to flushes.

Second, for suited hands with a straight draw, play all hands with a facecard (A, K, Q, or J), and play all hands down to a seven-high suited that have a gap of two or less. For example, although many top players might disagree, I believe that in loose games, J-7 suited and 7-4 suited are playable, but 6-3 suited is not. These hands will have bigger drains to larger flushes, but will provide the occasional straight to make up for it.

Suited hands without a facecard are largely "drawing hands," meaning that the turn and river cards must frequently be seen before one knows the power of the hand. The fraction of the time that they make a flush or straight is low, so they should be played only against a sizable number of opponents.

When playing suited hands, your hand can go from the nuts to an almost sure loser with the flip of a turn or river card. For example, one must be alert if the board pairs. If the board goes to two pair, a flush is almost useless. The occasional fourth card of the suit will hit the board when you are playing 9-8 suited. Don't be afraid to throw away a small flush when playing against reliable players when the fourth hits the board and they bet into you or raise you. It's particularly necessary to be careful when you flop a flush and some other players call on the flop and turn. If the players are serious, they'll have two pair, trips, or a high card in the suit. If the board pairs or the fourth of the suit hits, someone is likely to have made a better hand than you. ♦

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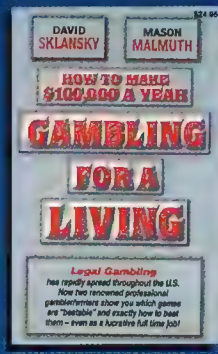
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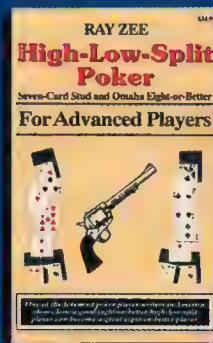
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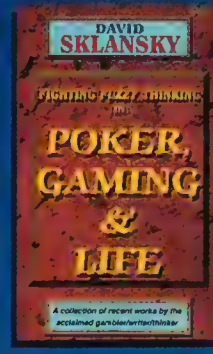
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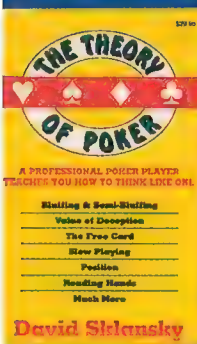
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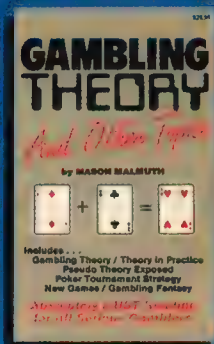
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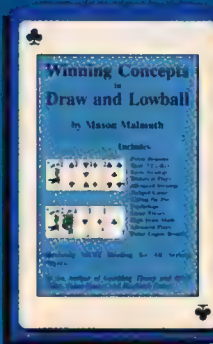
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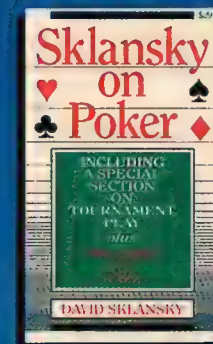
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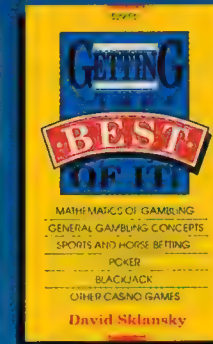
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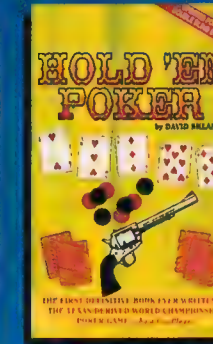
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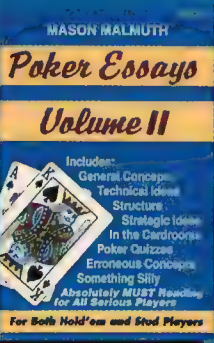
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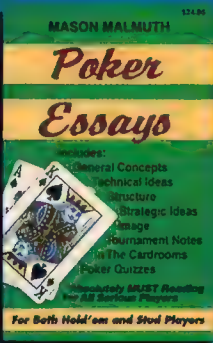
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BLACKJACK

Continued from page 96

ties lose to the house.

Do you have any advice on hidden odds about double exposure blackjack? I have not read or seen articles on this form of blackjack.

I want to start going to Atlantic City on a daily basis. I double up after each loss. Are there any good articles on double exposure? What's your opinion?

A: Double exposure blackjack has been around for a couple of decades. It was first introduced by Bob Stupak at the old Vegas World Casino, which is now the Stratosphere. The game has been thoroughly analyzed. The most comprehensive analysis is contained in Stanford Wong's *Professional Blackjack*.

You are correct in figuring that seeing both dealer holecards is very valuable. Unfortunately, that one great rule is not enough to make up for the two very bad rules — blackjacks pay even money and the dealer wins all ties.

The latter rule is the most costly. If you play double exposure for any length of time, you discover that what really happens is that you keep busting when you hit a pat hand that is tied with the dealer — particularly the pat 20.

The bottom line is that double exposure blackjack is slightly worse than regular blackjack as far as the odds go. Card counters can beat the game if they use an optimal playing and betting strategy, but it's not an easy game to beat for anyone. Most card counters stick with regular blackjack.

I also think that I must comment on your plan to attack the game with a "double up" betting strategy. Don't we all wish that any of the casino games could be beaten just by doubling the bet after each loss until we win? Think how easy it would be to get rich!

Consider the math. If you start with a bet of \$5, doubling after each loss, you'll be down \$1,275 if you have just eight consecutive losses, and your next bet — still trying to win just \$5 to complete the series — should be \$1,280. In other words, you can't afford to lose more than seven times in a row, or you're taking the bus home with only \$225 left of your \$1,500 bankroll.

The double-up system, which mathematicians call a "martingale," is a sure road to the poor house. You can be sure that hundreds of blackjack players every day are losing more than eight consecutive bets. Even if you had a \$25,000 bankroll, in which case you could afford to lose 11 consecutive bets, at which point you would be down \$10,235 and would need to place a \$10,240 bet to win the series and be five bucks ahead, many casinos will not allow bets of more than \$10,000.

If you lose the 12th bet, you're out more than \$20,000, and your gambling career is finished. Do you think it's impossible to lose 12 consecutive hands of blackjack? It's not. From your letter, it's apparent that you have played very little blackjack in the casinos. Your plan includes "winning \$200 per day and

leaving after 20 minutes of play." Ten bucks a minute sounds like a pretty good return! Why quit after 20 minutes?

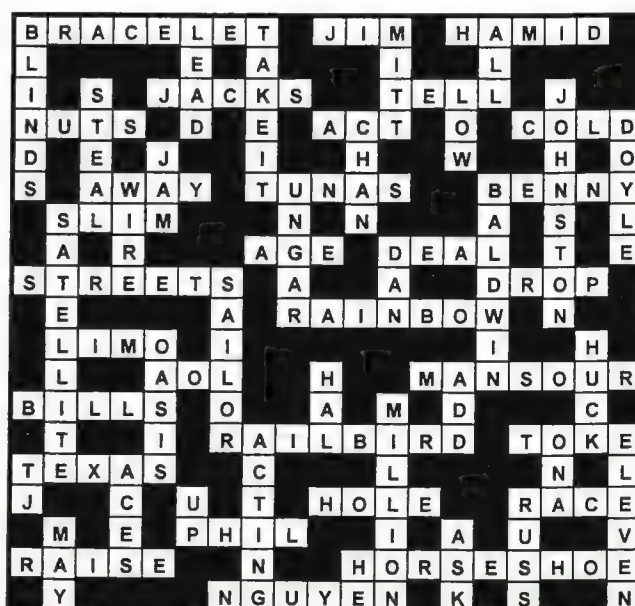
Blackjack is the one casino table game that can be beaten with skillful play. The thing is, you have to learn this by studying and practicing a card-counting system. It's not as easy as doubling your bet after each loss. It's hard work. You'll also need a starting bankroll a lot bigger than \$1,500.

Follow-up: A few issues back, I printed a letter from a blackjack team player who had team money stolen from his gym locker. I told him that I had learned from a locksmith that Master combination locks have a serial number engraved on the back that allows them to be opened by any locksmith who has the cross reference guide from the Master Lock Co., which lists all combinations according to their serial numbers. I also mentioned that criminals often obtain this master list from disreputable locksmiths. A reader recently E-mailed me that criminals do not need to find crooked locksmiths anymore to get Master combinations. Today, there are web sites where this information is freely exchanged.

In any case, my advice remains the same: If you have a Master combination lock, scratch the serial number off the back.

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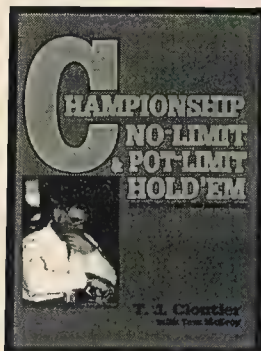
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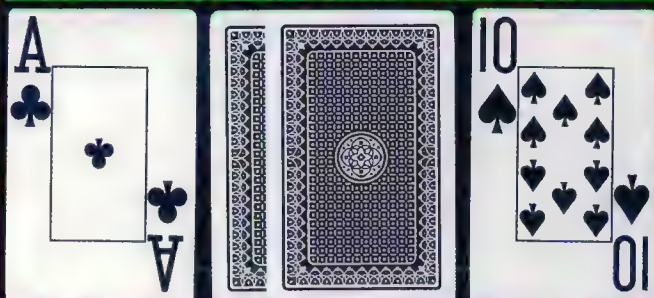
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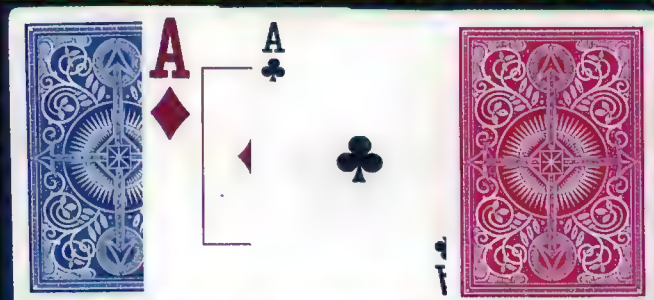
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1999 MAJOR POKER TOURNAMENTS

World Series of Poker	Binion's Horseshoe, Las Vegas, NV	April 26-May 13
USA vs. The World Poker Challenge	Crystal Park Casino, Compton, CA	May 12-16
Sport of Kings Tournament	Hollywood Park Casino, Inglewood, CA	May 16-23
Pot of Gold Poker Tournament	Reno Hilton, Reno, NV	June 4-12
California State Poker Championship	Commerce Casino, Commerce, CA	June 11-27
First Anniversary Poker Championships	Lucky Chances Casino, Colma, CA	June 14-20
San Francisco Open	Ladbrokes Casino San Pablo, San Pablo, CA	June 26-July 4
\$400,000 Guaranteed Summer Poker Challenge...	Crystal Park Casino, Compton, CA	June 28-July 9
The Orleans Open	The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	July 10-25
Beat the Heat Tournament	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA	July 16-25
Heavenly Hold'em Tournament	Commerce Casino, Commerce, CA	July 30-Aug. 8
Legends of Poker	Bicycle Club Casino, Bell Gardens, CA	Aug. 5-23
King of the Road Tournament	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA	Sept. 3-12
National Championship of Poker	Hollywood Park Casino, Inglewood, CA	Sept. 13-26
Big Poker Oktober	Bicycle Club Casino, Bell Gardens, CA	Oct. 7-18
Tom McEvoy's Poker Spectacular	Crystal Park Casino, Compton, CA	Oct. 22-29
Peppermill Fall Poker Tournament	Peppermill Hotel & Casino, Reno, NV	Oct. 22-29
The Sam Boyd Poker Classic	Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall, Las Vegas, NV	Nov. 5-15
Seniors World Championship of Poker	Crystal Park Casino, Compton, CA	Nov. 26-Dec. 4



TOURNAMENT TRAIL



1999 SPECIAL EVENTS

March Into May Bucks	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA	May 6-9
Fun in the Sun Tournament	Ocean's Eleven Casino, Oceanside, CA	May 7-9
Crazy Pineapple Spring Championship	Hyatt Regency, Lake Tahoe, NV	May 14-16
Spring Crazy Pineapple Championship	Hyatt Regency Hotel & Casino, Lake Tahoe, NV	May 15-16
'Pananza' Pan Tournament	Ocean's Eleven Casino, Oceanside, CA	May 15-16
Queen of Diamonds	Bicycle Club Casino, Bell Gardens, CA	May 16
\$30,000 Freeroll Double-Header	Commerce Casino, Commerce, CA	May 21-22
\$15,000 Monumental Hold'em Freeroll	San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino, San Manuel, CA	May 25
Memorial Bucks	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA	May 27-31
Shootout & Match Play Weekend	Crystal Park Casino, Compton, CA	May 28-30
Hat & Jacket Poker Tournament	Ocean's Eleven Casino, Oceanside, CA	May 31
Summer Sizz '99	Bicycle Club Casino, Bell Gardens, CA	June 3-5
Panarama Tournament	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA	June 3-6
No Rebuys Big Guarantee	Crystal Park Casino, Compton, CA	June 7-10
Dad's Big Bucks	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA	June 17-20
Firecracker 100	Bicycle Club Casino, Bell Gardens, CA	July 1
Pan for Gold Tournament	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA	July 1-5
Fourth of July Weekend Tournament	Casino Arizona, Scottsdale, AZ	July 3-5
July 4th Limit Hold'em Tournament	Ocean's Eleven Casino, Oceanside, CA	July 4
Racing for Dollars Poker Tournament	Ocean's Eleven Casino, Oceanside, CA	July 16-18
Tournament of Champions	The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	July 26-28
Pony & Poker Day	Ocean's Eleven Casino, Oceanside, CA	July 31
Dog Days Bucks	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA	Aug. 12-15
Summer Shootout Poker Tournament	Ocean's Eleven Casino, Oceanside, CA	Aug. 13-15
Russ Hamilton Fourth Annual Golf Tournament ...	Maui, Hawaii	Aug. 14-20
Ladies Poker Dream Weekend	Commerce Casino, Commerce, CA	Aug. 27-29
\$100,000 Guaranteed Poker Weekend	Crystal Park Casino, Compton, CA	Aug. 26-29
Bike Bash IV	Bicycle Club Casino, Bell Gardens, CA	Sept. 1
No Rebuy Labor Day Weekend	Crystal Park Casino, Compton, CA	Sept. 3-6
Mexican Independence Day	Bicycle Club Casino, Bell Gardens, CA	Sept. 11
Queen of Clubs	Bicycle Club Casino, Bell Gardens, CA	Sept. 12
Small Fall Challenge	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA ...	Sept. 30-Oct. 3
California Ladies State Poker Championship	Ocean's Eleven Casino, Oceanside, CA	Sept. 30-Oct. 4
\$100,000 Guaranteed Poker Weekend	Crystal Park Casino, Compton, CA	Oct. 1-3
Bike Bash V	Bicycle Club Casino, Bell Gardens, CA	Oct. 20
Thunder by the Bay	Casino San Pablo, San Pablo, CA	Nov. 4-7
Remember November	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA	Nov. 4-7
Player Appreciation Tournament	Hollywood Park Casino, Inglewood, CA	Nov. 11-14
Sierra Poker Classic	Harveys, Lake Tahoe, NV	Nov. 12-16
Turkey Shootout	Bicycle Club Casino, Bell Gardens, CA	Nov. 25
Gobble Gobble	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA	Nov. 25-28
Crazy Christmas Giveaway	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino, Lake Elsinore, CA	Dec. 23-26



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National & International



ARIZONA

MON	10AM	Bucky's Casino	Stud H/L	\$15 RB (2) \$10
MON	11AM	Casino Arizona	Hold'em	\$25
MON	11AM	Fort McDowell	Hold'em	\$5
MON	Noon	Gila River	No-Limit Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
MON	7PM	Gila River	Stud	\$25 RB (1) \$20
TUE	10AM	Bucky's Casino	Hold'em	\$15 RB (2) \$10
TUE	10AM	Desert Diamond	Alternates	\$15 RB \$5
TUE	11AM	Casino Arizona	Stud	\$25
TUE	11AM	Fort McDowell	Stud	\$5
TUE	Noon	Gila River	Stud	\$15 RB \$10
TUE	7PM	Bucky's Casino	No-Limit Hold'em	\$30 RB (1) \$20
TUE	7PM	Fort McDowell	Hold'em	\$15
TUE	7PM	Gila River	Hold'em	\$55 RB \$50
WED	11AM	Casino Arizona	Hold'em	\$25
WED	11AM	Fort McDowell	Omaha	\$5
WED	Noon	Gila River	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
WED	6PM	Apache Gold	Hold'em	\$25 RB \$15
WED	7PM	Gila River	Hold'em	\$25
WED	7PM	Fort McDowell	River Hold'em	\$15
WED	7PM	Gila River	Hold'em	\$25 RB (1) \$20
THU	10AM	Bucky's Casino	Omaha	\$15 RB (2) \$10
THU	11AM	Casino Arizona	Omaha	\$25
THU	11AM	Fort McDowell	Hold'em	\$5
THU	Noon	Gila River	Stud	\$25 RB (1) \$20
THU	7PM	Desert Diamond	Alternates	\$30
THU	7PM	Fort McDowell	Stud	\$15
THU	7PM	Gila River	No-Limit Hold'em	\$55 RB \$50
FRI	10AM	Bucky's Casino	Half Stud/Half Hold'em	\$15 RB (2) \$10
FRI	11AM	Casino Arizona	Hold'em	\$25
FRI	11AM	Fort McDowell	Stud	\$5
FRI	Noon	Gila River	Hold'em	\$25 RB (1) \$20
FRI	7PM	Fort McDowell	Hold'em	\$10
SAT	7PM	Fort McDowell	Stud	\$10
SUN	10AM	Desert Diamond	Hold'em	\$25
SUN	1PM	Gila River	Hold'em	Freeroll

COLORADO

MON	Noon	Ute Mountain Casino	Hold'em	\$10
TUES	Noon	Ute Mountain Casino	Stud	\$10
WED	Noon	Ute Mountain Casino	Stud	\$10
FRI	Noon	Ute Mountain Casino	Stud H/L	\$10
SAT	Noon	Ute Mountain Casino	Stud	\$10
SUN	Noon	Ute Mountain Casino	Stud	\$10

CONNECTICUT

MON	7PM	Foxwoods	Hold'em	\$35 RB (1) \$20/\$30
TUE	7PM	Foxwoods	No-Limit Hold'em	\$35 RB \$20
WED	7PM	Foxwoods	Stud	\$35
THU	Noon	Foxwoods	Stud	\$35 RB (1) \$20/\$30
SAT	10AM	Foxwoods	Hold'em	\$20 RB (1) \$10
SUN	10AM	Foxwoods	Stud	\$20 RB (1) \$10

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MON	6:30PM	Lady Luck Casino	Dealer's Choice	\$10 RB \$10
TUE	6:30PM	Lady Luck Casino	Hold'em	\$10 RB \$10
WED	6:30PM	Lady Luck Casino	Stud	\$10 RB \$10
THU	6:30PM	Lady Luck Casino	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$15
SUN	3PM	Lady Luck Casino	Stud	\$15 RB \$10

LOUISIANA

TUE	6:30PM	Grand Casino Coushatta	Hold'em	Freeroll RB \$15 AO \$15 or \$30
SAT	Noon	Grand Casino Coushatta	Hold'em (1st Sat.)	\$75 RB (1) \$75
SAT	Noon	Grand Casino Coushatta	Hold'em (3rd Sat.)	\$100 RB (1) \$100
SAT	Noon	Grand Casino Coushatta	Hold'em (2nd & 4th Sat.)	\$50 RB (1) \$50

MICHIGAN

MON	10AM	Soaring Eagle Casino	Stud	\$20 RB \$15
TUE	10AM	Soaring Eagle Casino	Omaha H/L	\$20 RB \$15
WED	10AM	Soaring Eagle Casino	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$15
SUN	5PM	Soaring Eagle Casino	Alternates	\$20 RB \$15

MISSISSIPPI

MON	10AM	Silver Star (Philadelphia)	Hold'em Freezeout	\$18
MON	4PM	Grand Casino (Gulfport)	Hold'em Freezeout	\$45
MON	7PM	Grand Casino (Biloxi)	Ladies Stud	\$15 RB (1) \$15
MON	7PM	Silver Star (Philadelphia)	Stud/Hold'em (bounty)	\$25 RB \$10 AO \$10
TUE	10AM	Silver Star (Philadelphia)	Omaha H/L Freezeout	\$18
TUE	Noon	Grand Casino (Biloxi)	Hold'em	\$5 RB \$20
WED	10AM	Silver Star (Philadelphia)	Hold'em H/L Freezeout	\$18
WED	Noon	Grand Casino (Gulfport)	Hold'em	Freeroll RB \$15
WED	4PM	President Casino (Biloxi)	Stud	\$15 RB \$10

WED	7PM	Casino Magic (Bay St. Louis)	1/2 Hold'em-1/2 Stud	\$15 RB \$10
WED	7PM	Silver Star (Philadelphia)	Omaha H/L (bounty)	\$25 RB \$10 AO \$10
THU	10AM	Silver Star (Philadelphia)	Omaha Freezeout	\$18
THU	Noon	Grand Casino (Gulfport)	Hold'em	Freeroll RB \$15
THU	1PM	Casino Magic (Bay St. Louis)	1/2 Hold'em-1/2 Omaha	\$15 RB \$10
THU	4PM	President Casino (Biloxi)	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
THU	7PM	Silver Star (Philadelphia)	Hold'em (bounty)	\$25 RB \$10 AO \$10
FRI	10AM	Silver Star (Philadelphia)	No-Limit Hold'em Freezeout	\$18
FRI	Noon	Grand Casino (Biloxi)	Hold'em	\$5 RB \$20
SAT	10AM	Silver Star (Philadelphia)	Ladies (varies)	\$20 RB \$10 AO \$10
SAT	Noon	Grand Casino (Biloxi)	Hold'em	\$55 RB (1) \$50
SUN	10AM	Grand Casino (Gulfport)	Stud	\$15 RB \$10
SUN	11AM	Silver Star (Philadelphia)	Stud H/L (bounty)	\$25 RB \$10 AO \$10
SUN	Noon	Grand Casino (Biloxi)	Omaha	\$10 RB \$15

NEW JERSEY

MON	12:15PM	Tropicana	Stud	\$40
TUE	7:15PM	Tropicana	Stud	\$20
WED	4:15PM	Tropicana	Hold'em	\$60
THU	7:15PM	Tropicana	Hold'em	\$20
FRI	4:15PM	Tropicana	Hold'em	\$115
SUN	1:15PM	Tropicana	Stud H/L	\$50

NEW MEXICO

MON	11AM	Isleta Gaming Palace	No-Limit Hold'em	\$15
WED	11AM	Isleta Gaming Palace	Stud	\$15
FRI	11AM	Isleta Gaming Palace	Hold'em	\$15

OREGON

MON	11AM	Mill Resort & Casino	Hold'em Freezeout	\$11
MON	11AM	Seven Feathers	Stud	Freeroll RB \$5 AO \$5
MON	11AM	Spirit Mountain	Hold'em	\$20 RB (2) \$10
TUE	11AM	Mill Resort & Casino	Hold'em Freezeout	\$11
TUE	11AM	Seven Feathers	Hold'em	Freeroll RB \$5 AO \$5
TUE	11AM	Spirit Mountain	Hold'em	\$20 RB (2) \$10
WED	11AM	Mill Resort & Casino	Hold'em Freezeout	\$11
WED	11AM	Seven Feathers	Stud	Freeroll RB \$5 AO \$5
WED	11AM	Spirit Mountain	Hold'em	\$20 RB (2) \$10
WED	7PM	Spirit Mountain	Omaha H/L	\$27 RB (2) \$20
THU	11AM	Mill Resort & Casino	Hold'em Freezeout	\$11
THU	11AM	Seven Feathers	Hold'em	Freeroll RB \$5 AO \$5
THU	11AM	Spirit Mountain	Hold'em	\$20 RB (2) \$10
THU	7PM	Spirit Mountain	No-Limit Hold'em	\$25 RB (2) \$20
FRI	11AM	Mill Resort & Casino	Hold'em Freezeout	\$11
FRI	11AM	Seven Feathers	Stud H/L	Freeroll RB \$5 AO \$5
FRI	Noon	Spirit Mountain	Hold'em	Freeroll RB \$20, \$25, \$15
SAT	11AM	Mill Resort & Casino	Hold'em Freezeout	\$11
SAT	Noon	Spirit Mountain	Hold'em (last Sat.)	\$115 RB \$100
SUN	Noon	Spirit Mountain	No-Limit Hold'em (3rd Sun.)	\$65 RB \$50

SOUTH DAKOTA

MON	5PM	Dakota Sioux	Stud	\$15 RB \$10
TUE	5PM	Dakota Sioux	Hold'em	\$10
WED	1PM	Dakota Sioux	Stud	\$10
THU	5PM	Dakota Sioux	Omaha	\$10
FRI	5PM	Dakota Sioux	Dealer's Choice	\$10
SAT	Noon	Dakota Sioux	Pineapple H/L	\$10
SUN	1PM	Dakota Sioux	Hold'em	\$25

WASHINGTON

MON	11AM	Michael's	Hold'em	\$20
TUE	6:30PM	Diamond Lil's	Hold'em	Freeroll RB (3) \$20
TUE	11AM	Michael's	Hold'em	\$20
WED	11AM	Michael's	Hold'em	\$20
THU	11AM	Michael's	Hold'em	\$20
FRI	11AM	Michael's	Hold'em	\$20
SAT	10AM	Diamond Lil's	Omaha	\$45
SUN	10AM	Diamond Lil's	Hold'em	\$23 RB \$22

EUROPE

Some casinos in Europe hold ongoing weekly tournaments. Due to the fact that these tournaments are subject to change at any time, *Card Player* suggests that you check with the casino of your choice about its tournament schedule prior to your visit.




NEVADA TOURNAMENT TRAIL




LAS VEGAS/LAUGHLIN/MESQUITE

MONDAY

10 AM	Edgewater-Laughlin	Pineapple Shootout	\$12
10 AM	Nevada Palace	Hold'em Shootout	\$17
11 AM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
Noon	Luxor	Hold'em Freezeout (20 player max.)	\$17
Noon	The Orleans	Omaha H/L	\$20 RB \$10
7 PM	Mirage	Hold'em	\$125 RB \$100
7 PM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
7 PM	River Palms-Laughlin	Omaha H/L	\$15 RB \$10
7 PM	Sahara	Hold'em	\$22 RB \$10
7 PM	Sunset Station	Stud (bounties)	\$20 RB \$10 AO 2-for-1
7 PM	The Orleans	No-Limit Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10

TUESDAY

10 AM	Edgewater-Laughlin	Pineapple Shootout	\$12
10 AM	Nevada Palace	Hold'em Shootout	\$17
11 AM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
Noon	Luxor	Hold'em Freezeout (20 player max.)	\$17
Noon	Mirage	Stud	\$225 RB \$100
Noon	The Orleans	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
5 PM	Casa Blanca-Mesquite	Varies	\$25 RB \$10
5 PM	Santa Fe	Razz	\$22
7 PM	Mirage	Omaha H/L	\$225 RB \$100
7 PM	Plaza	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
7 PM	River Palms-Laughlin	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10 AO \$20
7 PM	Sahara	Stud	\$22 RB \$10
7 PM	Sunset Station	Hold'em (bounties)	\$20 RB \$10 AO 2-for-1
7 PM	The Orleans	Stud	\$20 RB \$10

WEDNESDAY

10 AM	Edgewater-Laughlin	Pineapple Shootout	\$12
10 AM	Nevada Palace	Hold'em Shootout	\$17
11 AM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
Noon	Luxor	Hold'em Freezeout (20 player max.)	\$17
Noon	The Orleans	Omaha H/L	\$30 RB (1) \$20
5 PM	Santa Fe	1/2 Omaha H/L-1/2 Stud H/L	\$22
7 PM	Co. Belle-Laughlin	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
7 PM	Mirage	Hold'em	\$225 RB \$100
7 PM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
7 PM	River Palms-Laughlin	Alternates Omaha/Crazy Pineapple	\$20 RB \$10
7 PM	Sahara	Hold'em	\$22 RB \$10
7 PM	Sunset Station	Omaha (bounties)	\$20 RB \$10 AO 2-for-1
7 PM	The Orleans	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10

THURSDAY

10 AM	Edgewater-Laughlin	Pineapple Shootout	\$12
10 AM	Nevada Palace	Hold'em Shootout	\$17
11 AM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
Noon	Luxor	Hold'em Freezeout (20 player max.)	\$17
Noon	The Orleans	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
2 PM	Casa Blanca-Mesquite	Omaha H/L	\$20 RB \$10
5 PM	Santa Fe	Razz	\$22
7 PM	Col. Belle-Laughlin	Omaha H/L	\$20 RB \$10
7 PM	Mirage	No-Limit Hold'em	\$125 RB \$100
7 PM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
7 PM	The Orleans	Omaha H/L	\$20 RB \$10
7 PM	Plaza	24-Hand Pan	\$33

FRIDAY

10 AM	Edgewater-Laughlin	Pineapple Shootout	\$12
10 AM	Nevada Palace	Hold'em Shootout	\$17
11 AM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
Noon	Luxor	Hold'em Freezeout (20 player max.)	\$17
Noon	The Orleans	Omaha H/L	\$20 RB \$10
4 PM	River Palms-Laughlin	Hold'em	Freeroll RB \$10
5 PM	Santa Fe	No-Limit Hold'em	\$55
7 PM	Co. Belle-Laughlin	Omaha H/L	\$20 RB \$10
7 PM	Plaza	No-Limit Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
7 PM	The Orleans	No-Limit Hold'em	\$60 RB (1) \$40

SATURDAY

10 AM	Edgewater-Laughlin	Pineapple Shootout	\$12
10 AM	Nevada Palace	Hold'em Shootout	\$17
11 AM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
Noon	Luxor	Hold'em Freezeout (20 player max.)	\$17
Noon	The Orleans	Hold'em	\$30 RB (1) \$20
3 PM	Plaza	Pan Elimination (bounties)	\$22 RB \$10
4 PM	River Palms-Laughlin	Hold'em	Freeroll RB \$10
7 PM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
7 PM	The Orleans	Stud H/L Split	\$20 RB \$10
10PM	Plaza	Hold'em	\$115

SUNDAY

10 AM	Edgewater-Laughlin	Pineapple Shootout	\$12
10 AM	Nevada Palace	Hold'em Shootout	\$17
11 AM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
Noon	Luxor	Hold'em Freezeout (20 player max.)	\$17
Noon	Mirage	No-Limit Hold'em	\$325 RB \$100
Noon	The Orleans	No-Limit Hold'em	\$30 RB (1) \$20
7 PM	Mirage	Stud	\$125 RB \$100
7 PM	Plaza	Hold'em Freezeout	\$17
7 PM	The Orleans	Hold'em	\$120 RB (1) \$100

RENO/TAHOE

MONDAY

9 AM	Reno Hilton	No-Limit Hold'em Winner Take All	\$17
7 PM	Reno Hilton	Hold'em (bounties)	\$20 RB \$10

TUESDAY

9 AM	Reno Hilton	No-Limit Hold'em Winner Take All	\$17
6 PM	Harveys-Lake Tahoe	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
7 PM	Boomtown	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$15 AO \$20
7:30 PM	Hyatt-Lake Tahoe	Crazy Pineapple H/L	\$25 RB (3) \$20

WEDNESDAY

9 AM	Reno Hilton	No-Limit Hold'em Winner Take All	\$17
7 PM	Reno Hilton	No-Limit Hold'em (bounties)	\$20 RB \$10

THURSDAY

9 AM	Reno Hilton	No-Limit Hold'em Winner Take All	\$17
6 PM	Harveys-Lake Tahoe	Omaha H/L	\$20 RB \$10
7:30 PM	Hyatt-Lake Tahoe	Hold'em	\$35 RB (3) \$20

FRIDAY

9 AM	Reno Hilton	No-Limit Hold'em Winner Take All	\$17
3 PM	Hyatt-Lake Tahoe	Crazy Pineapple H/L	\$55 RB (4) \$50
7 PM	Boomtown	Hold'em	\$35 RB (2) \$20

SATURDAY

9 AM	Reno Hilton	No-Limit Hold'em Winner Take All	\$17
Noon	Peppermill	Omaha H/L	\$25 RB \$20 AO \$20
Noon	Eldorado	Stud	\$25 RB \$20

SUNDAY

9 AM	Reno Hilton	No-Limit Hold'em Winner Take All	\$17
2 PM	Reno Hilton	Omaha H/L	\$25 RB (2) \$20
6 PM	Boomtown	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$15 AO \$20

The ORLEANS OPEN

July 10-25, 1999

The ORLEANS

Las Vegas, Nevada



CALIFORNIA TOURNAMENT TRAIL



MONDAY

9:30AM	Casino Morongo-Cabazon	Hold'em	\$10 RB \$10 AO \$10
10AM	Club One-Fresno	Lowball	\$10 RB \$5 AO \$15
10AM	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10, \$20
10AM	Jok-erz Wild-Petaluma	Stud	Freeroll
10AM	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino	Hold'em	\$12 RB (1) \$10
10AM	Ocean's Eleven-Oceanside	Hold'em (bounties)	\$13 RB \$5 AO \$10
10AM	Pechanga-Temecula	5-Card Omaha	\$15 RB (2) \$10
10AM	Sycuan-El Cajon	Hold'em (bounties)	\$13
10AM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Hold'em (bounties)	\$12
10:15AM	Chumash Casino-Santa Ynez	Hold'em (bounties)	\$3 RB \$10
10:30AM	Artichoke Joe's-San Bruno	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
11AM	Crystal Park-Compton	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
11AM	Ladbrokes Casino San Pablo	Stud	\$13 RB \$10
11:15AM	Bay 101-San Jose	Pan	\$49 w/RB
11:30AM	Hollywood Park-Inglewood	Bounty Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
12:15PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Omaha H/L	\$15 RB \$10
3PM	Normandie Casino-Gardena	Stud H/L	\$15 RB \$10
6:15PM	Bay 101-San Jose	Omaha H/L	\$88
6:30PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Omaha H/L	\$15 RB \$10
6:30PM	Club One-Fresno	Omaha H/L	\$10 RB \$5 AO \$15
7PM	California Grand-Pacheco	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
7PM	Crystal Park-Compton	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
7PM	Garden City-San Jose	Omaha H/L (1st Mon.)	\$40 RB (1) \$40
7PM	Garden City-San Jose	Stud H/L (2nd Mon.)	\$40 RB (1) \$40
7PM	Hollywood Park-Inglewood	Hold'em	\$60 RB \$50
7PM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Omaha H/L	\$12
7:30PM	Barona-San Diego	Hold'em	\$16 AO \$5
7:30PM	Jok-Erz Wild-Petaluma	Hold'em	\$15

TUESDAY

9:30AM	Casino Morongo-Cabazon	Stud H/L	\$10 RB \$10 AO \$10
10AM	Club One-Fresno	Hold'em	\$10 RB \$5 AO \$15
10AM	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10, \$20
10AM	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino	Omaha H/L	\$12 RB (1) \$10
10AM	Ocean's Eleven-Oceanside	Omaha H/L (bounties)	\$13 RB \$5 AO \$10
10AM	Pechanga-Temecula	Hold'em	\$15 RB (2) \$10
10AM	Sycuan-El Cajon	Omaha H/L (bounties)	\$13
10AM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Omaha H/L (bounties)	\$12
10:15AM	Chumash Casino-Santa Ynez	Omaha H/L	\$3 RB \$10
11AM	Crystal Park-Compton	Stud H/L	\$15 RB \$10
11AM	Garden City-San Jose	Hold'em	\$30 RB (2) \$20
11AM	Ladbrokes Casino San Pablo	Hold'em	\$13 RB \$10
11:30AM	Hollywood Park-Inglewood	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
Noon	Cache Creek-Brooks	Hold'em	\$25 RB \$20
Noon	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Pan Elimination	\$20
12:15PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
1:30PM	Commerce Casino-Commerce	Pan	\$30
3PM	Normandie Casino-Gardena	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
6PM	Clovis 500 Club-Clovis	Omaha H/L	\$2 RB \$2
6PM	Fantasy Springs-Indio	No-Limit Hold'em (2nd & 4th)	\$55
6:15PM	Bay 101-San Jose	Hold'em	\$101
6:30PM	Artichoke Joe's-San Bruno	Hold'em	\$45 RB \$40
6:30PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Stud H/L	\$15 RB \$10
6:30PM	Club One-Fresno	Crazy Pineapple	\$10 RB \$5 AO \$15
6:30PM	Lucky Chances-Colma	Omaha	\$49 RB (1) \$40
6:30PM	Sycuan-El Cajon	Hold'em (bounties)	Freeroll
7PM	California Grand-Pacheco	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
7PM	Casino Morongo-Cabazon	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10 AO (2) \$10
7PM	Crystal Park-Compton	No-Limit Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
7PM	Garden City-San Jose	Pan (1st Tues.)	\$60
7PM	Hollywood Park-Inglewood	Mexican Poker	\$25 RB \$10
7PM	Pechanga-Temecula	Hold'em	\$15
7PM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Hold'em (bounties)	\$22
7:30PM	Barona-San Diego	Stud H/L	\$16 AO \$5
7:30PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Pan	\$33
7:30PM	Normandie Casino-Gardena	Pai Gow Poker	\$25 RB \$20

WEDNESDAY

9:30AM	Casino Morongo-Cabazon	Omaha H/L	\$10 RB \$10 AO \$10
10AM	Club One-Fresno	1/2 Hold'em-1/2 Omaha H/L	\$10 RB \$5 AO \$15
10AM	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10, \$20
10AM	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino	Hold'em	\$12 RB (1) \$10
10AM	Ocean's Eleven-Oceanside	Hold'em (bounties)	\$13 RB \$5 AO \$10

10AM	Pechanga-Temecula	Omaha H/L	\$15 RB (2) \$10
10AM	Sycuan-El Cajon	Stud H/L (bounties)	\$13
10AM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Hold'em (bounties)	\$12
10:15AM	Chumash Casino-Santa Ynez	Omaha H/L	\$3 RB \$10
11AM	Crystal Park-Compton	Omaha H/L	\$15 RB \$10
11AM	Ladbrokes Casino San Pablo	Omaha H/L-Stud H/L (alt.)	\$13 RB \$10
11:15AM	Bay 101-San Jose	Hold'em	\$49
11:30AM	Hollywood Park-Inglewood	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
12:15PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Stud	\$15 RB \$10
3PM	Normandie Casino-Gardena	Omaha H/L	\$15 RB \$10
6:30PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	No-Limit Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
6:30PM	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino	Hold'em	Freeroll
6:30PM	Oaks Club-Emerlyville	Hold'em	\$75
7PM	California Grand-Pacheco	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
7PM	Casino Morongo	H.O.S.	\$10 RB \$10 AO \$10
7PM	Chumash Casino-Santa Ynez	Hold'em	\$3 RB \$20
7PM	Crystal Park-Compton	Omaha H/L	\$15 RB \$10
7PM	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Cr. Pineapple H/L	\$25 RB (1) \$20 or (1) \$30
7PM	Garden City-San Jose	Hold'em	\$40 RB (1) \$40
7PM	Pechanga-Temecula	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
7PM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Omaha H/L	\$12
7:15PM	Lucky Chances-Colma	Dbl. Hand/Super Pan 9 (alt.)	\$60 RB \$50
7:30PM	Barona-San Diego	Stud H/L	\$16 AO \$5
7:30PM	Commerce Casino-Commerce	Pan	\$40
7:30PM	Jok-erz Wild-Petaluma	Omaha	\$20
7:30PM	Normandie Casino-Gardena	EO 11	\$25 RB \$20

THURSDAY

9:30AM	Casino Morongo-Cabazon	Hold'em H/L	\$10 RB \$10 AO \$10
10AM	Club One-Fresno	Omaha H/L	\$10 RB \$5 AO \$15
10AM	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10, \$20
10AM	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino	Omaha H/L	\$12 RB (1) \$10
10AM	Ocean's Eleven-Oceanside	Hold'em H/L (bounties)	\$13 RB \$5 AO \$10
10AM	Pechanga-Temecula	Hold'em	\$15 RB (2) \$10
10AM	Sycuan-El Cajon	Hold'em (bounties)	\$13
10AM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Stud H/L (bounties)	\$12
10:15AM	Chumash Casino-Santa Ynez	Stud H/L	\$3 RB \$10
10:30AM	Artichoke Joe's-San Bruno	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
11AM	Crystal Park-Compton	Stud	\$13 RB \$10
11AM	Ladbrokes Casino San Pablo	Stud	\$15 RB \$10
11:30AM	Hollywood Park-Inglewood	Stud H/L	\$15 RB \$10
12:15PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Lowball	\$15 RB \$10
3PM	Normandie Casino-Gardena	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
5PM	Cache Creek Casino-Brooks	Hold'em	\$10 RB (1) \$10
6:30PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
7PM	California Grand-Pacheco	Omaha	\$20 RB \$10
7PM	Casino Morongo-Cabazon	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10 AO \$10
7PM	Clovis 500 Club-Clovis	No-Limit Hold'em	\$12
7PM	Crystal Park-Compton	Stud H/L	\$15 RB \$10
7PM	Garden City-San Jose	Hold'em	\$120
7PM	Pechanga-Temecula	Omaha	\$15 RB \$10
7PM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Stud H/L	\$12
7:30PM	Barona-San Diego	Omaha H/L	\$16 AO \$5
7:30PM	Normandie Casino-Gardena	Pai Gow Poker	\$55 RB \$50

FRIDAY

9:30AM	Casino Morongo-Cabazon	Hold'em	\$10 RB \$10 AO \$10
10AM	Club One-Fresno	Hold'em	\$10 RB \$5 AO \$15
10AM	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10, \$20
10AM	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino	No-Limit Hold'em	\$12 RB (1) \$10
10AM	Ocean's Eleven-Oceanside	Omaha H/L (bounties)	\$13 RB \$5 AO \$10
10AM	Pechanga-Temecula	Omaha H/L	\$15 RB (2) \$10
10AM	Sycuan-El Cajon	Hold'em (bounties)	\$13
10AM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Omaha H/L (bounties)	\$12
10:15AM	Chumash Casino-Santa Ynez	Hold'em	\$13 RB \$10
11AM	Crystal Park-Compton	No-Limit Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
11AM	Ladbrokes Casino San Pablo	Hold'em	\$13 RB \$10
11:30AM	Hollywood Park-Inglewood	Bounty Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
Noon	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Pan Elimination	\$20
12:15PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Stud H/L	\$15 RB \$10
3PM	Normandie Casino-Gardena	Crazy Pineapple H/L	\$15 RB \$10
5PM	Cache Creek-Brooks	Stud	\$5 RB (1) \$5
7PM	California Grand-Pacheco	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
7PM	Crystal Park-Compton	No-Limit Hold'em	\$60



CALIFORNIA TOURNAMENT TRAIL



FRIDAY, cont.

7PM	Dealer's Choice-Auburn	1/2 Hold'em-1/2 Omaha	Freeroll RB \$10
7PM	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino	Hold'em	\$22 RB (2) \$15
7PM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Hold'em (bounties)	\$15
7:30PM	Commerce Casino-Commerce	Pan	\$40
8PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Pan	\$40

SATURDAY

9:30AM	Casino Morongo-Cabazon	Hold'em	\$10 RB \$10 AO \$10
10AM	Sycuan-El Cajon	Hold'em (bounties)	\$13
10AM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Hold'em (bounties)	\$23
10:15AM	Chumash Casino-Santa Ynez	Hold'em	\$13 RB \$10
11AM	Crystal Park-Compton	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
11AM	Ocean's Eleven-Oceanside	Hold'em (bounties)	\$23 RB \$10 AO \$20
11:30AM	Hollywood Park-Inglewood	Stud	\$15 RB \$10
11:30AM	Lucky Chances-Colma	No-Limit Hold'em (1st Sat.)	\$37 RB \$20
11:30AM	Lucky Chances-Colma	No-Limit Hold'em (2nd Sat.)	\$220
11:30AM	Lucky Chances-Colma	Stud (3rd Sat.)	\$37 RB \$20
11:30AM	Lucky Chances-Colma	Hold'em (4th & 5th Sat.)	\$37 RB \$20
Noon	Central Coast-Grover Beach	Hold'em	Freeroll RB \$10
Noon	Club One-Fresno	Omaha H/L	\$12 RB \$10 AO \$20
Noon	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Pan Elimination	\$20
12:15PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	No-Limit Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
12:30PM	Ash Street-Ventura	No-Limit Omaha H/L	\$30 RB \$20
1:15PM	Oaks Club-Emeryville	Varies (2nd Sat.)	\$55 RB (1) \$50
2PM	California Grand-Pacheco	Hold'em	\$50
2PM	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Hold'em	\$28 RB \$20 AO \$10
2PM	Jackson Rancheria-Jackson	Hold'em	\$12 RB \$10
3PM	Clovis 500 Club-Clovis	Charity Support Tournament	\$5
5:55PM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Stud H/L (bounties)	\$15
6PM	Sycuan-El Cajon	Hold'em (bounties)	\$22

7PM	California Grand-Pacheco	Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
7PM	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino	Hold'em	\$22 RB (2) \$15

SUNDAY

10AM	Sycuan-El Cajon	Hold'em (bounties)	\$13
10AM	Viejas Casino-Alpine	Varies (qualify)	Freeroll
10:30AM	Ash Street-Ventura	Omaha H/L	Freeroll RB \$10
11AM	Crystal Park-Compton	1/2 Stud H/L-1/2 Omaha H/L	\$15 RB \$10
11AM	Garden City-San Jose	Hold'em	\$35
11AM	Lake Elsinore Hotel & Casino	Hold'em	Freeroll
11:15AM	Bay 101-San Jose	Hold'em	Varies
11:30AM	Hollywood Park-Inglewood	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
Noon	Central Coast-Grover Beach	Hold'em	Freeroll RB \$10
Noon	Club One-Fresno	Hold'em (bounties)	\$12 RB \$5 AO \$15
Noon	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Pan Elimination	\$20
12:15PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Crazy Pineapple	\$15 RB \$10
1:15PM	Oaks Club-Emeryville	Hold'em	\$50 RB (2) \$40
1:30PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Pan	\$33
2PM	California Grand-Pacheco	Hold'em	\$50
2PM	Casino Morongo-Cabazon	Hold'em	Freeroll RB \$10 AO \$10
3PM	Dealer's Choice-Auburn	Hold'em	\$15 RB \$10
3PM	Ocean's Eleven-Oceanside	21st Century Blackjack	\$18 RB \$10
5PM	Fantasy Springs-Indio	Hold'em Real Money	\$25 RB (1) \$30
6PM	Crystal Park-Compton	Hold'em	\$60
6PM	Hollywood Park-Inglewood	No-Limit Hold'em	\$330
6PM	Sycuan-El Cajon	Hold'em (bounties)	\$22
6:30PM	Artichoke Joe's-San Bruno	No-Limit Hold'em	\$25 RB \$20
6:30PM	Bicycle Club-Bell Gardens	Headhunter Hold'em	\$20 RB \$10
6:30PM	Lucky Chances-Colma	Hold'em	\$88
7PM	California Grand-Pacheco	Omaha	\$50
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